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Gov't meeting to discuss referendum

By DAN IZENBERG
 and news agencies

Government representatives are due to meet today in the office of Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi to consider a proposed referendum on the question of a second redeployment.

Interior Minister Eli Suissa, Communications Minister Limor Livnat, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and officials of the Prime Minister's Office, the Justice Ministry and the Interior Ministry have been invited to attend.

The participants will discuss the experiences of other countries with plebiscites and the length of time it will take, and how much it will cost, to hold one.

"The committee will research the experiences other countries have had with referendums, a time frame for such a vote, and the budgetary requirements involved," said Justice Ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed. Asked yesterday at a press conference about the chances of a referendum, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "I am giving it very serious consideration, but I have not yet decided on the matter."

A senior government official conceded that the referendum idea has become "much more serious." He noted that Netanyahu has asked Livnat to draw up a detailed proposal of how it might work.

Channel 2 reported last night that a referendum would likely take place in two months.

Responding to Netanyahu's plans to hold a referendum, MK Michael Kleiner (Geshar) — who is chairman of the Land of Israel Front, which opposes a further redeployment — said yesterday he would support the move only if the referendum is carried out by ballot.

Kleiner, who claims to have initiated the idea of a plebiscite, said a referendum carried out electronically or via telephones would lead to widespread abuse and false figures.

He said he will set the wheels in motion to enforce a law that will demand a 75-percent majority in order for the referendum to pass. He recalled that similar steps were used by former French president Charles DeGaulle when he carried out a referendum to return Algeria.

"Today we are on the verge of making a decision to withdraw that will lead to war in May 1999," he said.

Political sources from both Labor and Likud said Netanyahu's campaign adviser, American Arthur Finkelstein, is behind the decision to hold a referendum on the pullback. Netanyahu reportedly consulted Finkelstein on the issue several days ago, and Finkelstein's top aide was reported to be in Jerusalem for this purpose.

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said the aide was here to advise Netanyahu on the Likud's campaign for its candidate for Tel Aviv mayor, Doron Rubin.

But senior political sources said it would be safe to assume Finkelstein's exorbitant expensive services would not be engaged merely for the local campaign, especially on the eve of the pullout when Netanyahu may fear for the future of his coalition.

Jay Bushinsky, Margot Dudkevitch and Michal Yudeiman contributed to this report.



Protesters against government plans for a greater Jerusalem clash with police near Mevasseret Zion on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway yesterday. (Brian Henders)

PA warns of harsh response to J'lem plan

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority yesterday warned of a harsh Palestinian reaction to the government's plan to expand Jerusalem.

PA officials described the plan as a declaration of war against Palestinian residents of Jerusalem that places them under siege and confiscates dozens of square kilometers in the West Bank. They said the PA would recruit international pressure to annul the government program.

Planning Minister Nabil Shaath said last night that the PA had filed a complaint to the UN Security Council over Israel setting up an umbrella authority for greater Jerusalem, him reported.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh said he condemned the cabinet decision to expand the authority of Jerusalem's municipality to include planning to the east and north of the city. "It's a new attempt to finish the peace process and to torpedo US efforts to

rescue the peace process," he said. "It's provocative, uncalculated, and a dangerous violation of the [peace] accords."

"Jerusalem is entering a period of siege in the full sense of the word," said Palestinian Legislative Council member Ziad Abu Zayyad. "What is happening in Jerusalem is an historical crime against the Arabs and Moslems."

PA officials charged that the Israeli plan is meant to stretch Jerusalem's borders to include "up to 10 percent of the entire West Bank, expanding the city to six times its current size to encompass 600 square kilometers."

Abdullah Abdullah, director of the PA's Geographic Center, said the plan is not new and seeks to include many more Jewish residents in an attempt to alter the demography of Jerusalem, which is now seeing a huge increase in the Arab population. He called on the PA to establish what he termed "clear programs to significantly increase the number of Palestinian residents in east Jerusalem."

Faisal Husseini, who holds the Jerusalem portfolio in the PA, warned that the plan would lead to Palestinian violence in the city. Husseini said the government project endangers what little is left in the peace process.

News agencies add: Egypt yesterday criticized the plan, calling it an "aggression on the peace process."

"The matter has become a new Israeli policy, to make its occupation firm and [to] torpedo the peace process entirely," Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters. "We ask the Israeli government to review this policy that forms an aggression on the peace process," Moussa said. Jordan described cabinet approval of the plan as "provocative."

The European Union said it is concerned the plan would complicate the peace process. Britain, which currently holds the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union, issued a statement on behalf of the EU.

Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

Four arrested in rape of 15-year-old in Mt. Carmel Forest

By DAVID RUDGE

Police have arrested four suspects in connection with the brutal rape of a 15-year-old girl and an assault on her boyfriend in the Mt. Carmel Forest early Saturday.

The suspects, from Daliat al-Carmel, are all said to be 18 and over and students at a nearby high school.

According to police sources, the four had been to the Wings nightclub on Friday night — the same place where a 15-year-old from Mughar in Lower Galilee was stabbed to death and two others from the village were injured in a fight with a group of Jewish youths.

Police said there was no connection between the two incidents and that the four from Daliat al-Carmel had gone from the nightclub to another place to see a sex film.

From there, they went to the forest on their way back to Daliat al-Carmel, allegedly with the intention of finding and disturbing one

of the couples who often park there.

The girl and her boyfriend, aged 19, were sitting in his car when the four men drove up alongside them in another car around 2 a.m. Saturday. According to the testimony of the couple, both from Haifa, the four suspects threatened them with a knife and dragged the boyfriend out of the car, assaulted him, and then tied him up.

One of the suspects apparently stood guard over him while the others attacked the girl, stripping off her clothes and raping her, one after the other, in front of her boyfriend. She told police she had tried to resist them and repeatedly pleaded with them, but they overpowered her and carried on the assault and rape despite her cries.

The boyfriend eventually managed to free himself after the suspects left and drove himself and his girlfriend to Haifa's Carmel Hospital, where he called the police. They were both treated at

the hospital, and the girl was later given psychological counseling to try and help her cope with the trauma of the repeated rape.

The couple said their attackers had spoken in Arabic. They gave police a description of them and the vehicle, which was later traced to Daliat al-Carmel.

Supt. Moshe Nissan, spokesman for the Haifa District, said that one of the suspects had confessed his role in the attack and reconstructed the course of events for police. A senior Haifa police officer said it was one of the worst cases of physical and sexual abuse that he had ever been called upon to handle.

Daliat al-Carmel Local Council head Fahmi Halaby yesterday expressed shock and outrage over the attack and denounced those responsible. He told Israel Radio that if all the details were correct, the perpetrators had no place in the village or Druse society and he would expect them to be given the most severe punishment possible.



It's how you play that counts

Iranian opposition fans, wearing T-shirts with a picture of their leader, Maryam Rajavi, cheer beside a US fan during their World Cup match yesterday. Iran won 2-1. Story, Page 24. (Reuters)

Weizman no-show at eco parley

By DAVID HARRIS

The 6th Israel Democracy Institute Annual Economic Conference opened last night without the expected participation of President Ezer Weizman. The president refused to attend the parley due to lack of progress in the peace process. According to

Weizman, economics cannot be separated from peace, Israel Radio reported.

Organizers of the conference expressed their disappointment and said they were informed of his decision on Friday.

During the opening session, Bank of Israel research head Leo Leiderman told delegates that foreign investment in Israel fell by more than 50 percent in the first five months compared to the same period last year.

Participants said this could be due to the threat of a Gulf war, the freeze in the peace process or a cyclical economic occurrence.

Full story, Page 19

Ministry must justify not registering Ethiopian family as Jews

By HAIM SHAPIRO

It isn't just converts from the US or immigrants from Russia who have problems being registered as Jews by the Interior Ministry, but also a family related to one of the historic leaders of Ethiopian Jewry.

That was the charge levelled yesterday by Jerusalem attorney Michael Corinaldi, who is representing four descendants of the Taamarat family.

They have been registered either as "Christian" or their nationality has not been registered at all.

One family member registered as a "Christian" was married by the chief rabbi of Netanya. Three siblings of the two registered as "Christian" are registered as Jews.

The Interior Ministry registration, which

has been the object of numerous petitions to the High Court of Justice by immigrants from the West, is not accepted as binding by the Chief Rabbinate when determining whether a person is Jewish; but it is often of emotional importance to those who are not registered as Jews.

Last week the High Court issued an injunction ordering the ministry to show within 45 days why Amsalu, Mengisti, and Mucha Tesama and Yatsatu Gizhine should not be registered as Jews.

According to Corinaldi, the four are all grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Yeshareg Taamarat, who was the sister of Emmanuel Taamarat, the man who established the Jewish school in Addis Ababa and was among the first leaders of the Ethiopian Jewish community.

According to Kes Hadana, one of the religious leaders of Israel's Ethiopian Jewish community, Emmanuel and Yeshareg were the children of one David Trunesh and a woman belonging to the Ethiopian aristocracy.

However, five other Ethiopian Jewish leaders stated that Emmanuel and Yeshareg were Jews.

In addition, the family has two documents issued by Rabbi Samuel Hirsch Margulies, who served as the head of the Florence Rabbinical Seminary until his death in 1922. Margulies specifically refers to Emmanuel Taamarat as "a descendant of our brothers exiled to the land of Ethiopia."

Corinaldi also noted that Amsalu and Mucha have a brother and two sisters, David, Adana, and Karana, who came to

Israel in an earlier immigration. All three are registered as Jews.

Amsalu, who is registered as "Christian," was married to a Jewish woman in a ceremony conducted by Netanya Sephardi Chief Rabbi David Shloush, who is considered an expert on Ethiopian Jewry. The marriage was registered by the same ministry that refuses to register him as a Jew.

"I don't know how many immigrants from Europe would be able to prove they were Jewish if the authorities started questioning their genealogies," Corinaldi said.

The Interior Ministry said Taamarat was a convert to Judaism and therefore his sister was not Jewish, but Corinaldi said that if that were the case, Margulies would not have referred to Taamarat as the descendant of one of the exiled brothers.



NEWS

in brief

Sarid: Arafat frustrated with peace process

Meretz Party leader MK Yossi Sarid said Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat told him in Ramallah last night that he had sent a message to US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that the PA cannot make more concessions. Arafat also said he is frustrated and concerned about the peace process. Meretz MK Haim Oron and Ron Cohen also attended the meeting.

PA negotiator Nabil Shaath told Israel Radio's Arabic Service yesterday that he cannot report any new developments in the US effort to obtain an Israeli withdrawal from another 13.1 percent of the West Bank.

Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib

Suspect in Ziegelboim murder remanded

A suspect in the murder of Prisons Service medical officer Dr. Ya'acov Ziegelboim last month was arrested by police and remanded by the Petah Tikva Magistrates Court for eight days yesterday. At the closed-door session, Judge Ruth Lorch barred publication of the suspect's identification and details of the charges against him. Ziegelboim died in a car bomb explosion as he was driving to work through the IDF base at Tarfim on May 6. Following his murder, police said they suspected followers of jailed cult leader Uzi Meshulam.

Margot Dudkevitch

6 to be indicted today in Harari murder attempt

Six people allegedly connected with an attempt on the life of gangland figure Roni Harari in a Givatayim cafe on May 5 are to be indicted in the Tel Aviv District Court today.

They are Yitzhak (Hishi) Hadif, head of the Pardess Katz gang, Avi Rohan, Dotan Shukron, Moshe (Chico) Beit-Adah, Moshe Avitan and attorney Nurit Buchnik, who is suspected of passing messages from gang members to Hadif when she visited him in Ashdod Prison.

Harari, who sustained light wounds in the shooting attack, is the twin brother of Yossi Harari, a leader of the rival Ramat Amidar gang.

Jim

PM: Deal in works for Ilya body return

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night confirmed that a deal is being arranged with Lebanon to return the remains of naval commando SCPO Itamar Ilya, killed on an abortive raid in Lebanon last September. Speaking to reporters while on a visit to the Egoz commando unit of the Golani Brigade at Camp Shraga in Western Galilee, Netanyahu said: "We are making efforts in this direction at the moment. It is worthwhile giving these efforts a chance to prove themselves, and it is preferable to speak as little as possible about it."

Jim

Another Jewish family moves into Silwan

Another Jewish family from the Elad group moved into Jerusalem's predominantly Arab Silwan neighborhood yesterday. Elad families moved into four Silwan houses on June 8, joining 16 other Jewish families who Israeli peace activists say have moved into the neighborhood of 30,000 Palestinians over the last decade. Elad said it bought the homes from Arab owners.

Reuters

Labor MKs discuss annulling PM direct vote

A group of Labor MKs gathered at MK Rafi Edri's Herzliya home last night to discuss the initiative to abolish the direct elections for prime minister. Those invited included MKs Uzi Baram, Shimon Peres, Hagai Meron, Dalia Itzik and others. Sources close to party leader Ehud Barak denied reports that he was not invited to the meeting at Edri's, due to his objection to the initiative. They said Barak thinks the law is bad, but is in favor of amending it to include crucial checks and balances, as intended in the original legislation. Barak sees no point in going to the meeting, the sources said, because Labor has already set up a committee to formulate recommendations to amend the law.

Michal Yudelman

PA arrests dozens of Islamic Jihad activists

The Palestinian Authority has arrested dozens of Islamic Jihad militants since the IDF shot dead an activist 11 days ago while trying to plant a bomb near the settlement of Morag in the Gaza Strip. Jihad sources said yesterday at least 35 movement members have been detained, some of them for brief interrogations. The Palestinian Police is investigating whether the bomber, a resident of the Khan Yunis refugee camp, worked alone or was part of a Jihad plan to attack Morag. Palestinian sources said. They added that his friends and neighbors have been arrested and interrogated; some have already been released.

Steve Rodan and Mohammed Najib

The South African Zionist Federation

Israel and South Africa
extends its heartfelt condolences to
Leib Frank, former General Secretary,
on the passing of his wife

LUFFY FRANK

With great grief we announce the death of our
beloved mother and grandmother

**CAROLA GRAETZER
PRAGER**

The funeral will be held today, June 22, 1998,
at 1 p.m. at the Kiryat Shaul Cemetery,
Tel Aviv.

The bereaved families:
Family Graetzer
Families Shir-On
Families Bar-Giora

For information: 050-232-134

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved
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BARUCH BORGER

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at the Kfar Shmaryahu Cemetery.

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Wife: Rachella
Children: Tova and David Sadan
Ester and Louis Beck
Grandchildren: Avivit and Clifford, Ido, Talia,
Adar, Alma
Great-grandson: Eltan
Shiva at the Beck residence, Harakafot 11, Kfar Shmaryahu.

Yishai offers compensation to family of Palestinian killed in Hebron

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and AP

An Israeli offer for compensation made to the widow and children of a Palestinian man clubbed to death last week by two Jewish teenagers was greeted with mixed reaction by the family yesterday.

Abdul Abu Turki, 48, died last Tuesday after being hit on the head by two 16-year-old boys from the village for wayward youth in Beit Haggai.

Interior Minister Eli Yishai made the compensation offer during a condolence call yesterday to

the Abu Turki family.

"I have come to express our sorrow for this ugly crime," Yishai told the family. "Israeli law does not require compensation, but as a minister I will make every effort to bring aid and financial support to the family."

Yishai stressed that the motive behind the tragic incident was clearly criminal and not nationalist in nature. Accompanying Yishai were the youth village director Ephraim Hibsh and Beit Haggai's Rabbi Moshe Rabinovitch as well as other settlement officials.

Abu Turki's father Mohammed welcomed the prospects of help for his 10 fatherless grandchildren but not everyone felt the same. Abu Turki's 11-year-old daughter Noor led a protest outside her own home during the visit. Refusing to greet the minister, she shouted: "With our blood and souls, we will redeem our martyr," and "We want the settlers out."

Her older brother Khalil said he would not accept any money. "We don't want any aid, we don't accept pay-offs," he told Yishai. Beit Haggai's secretary Zvi Katz

said Yishai met with members of the settlement and youth village before setting out to visit Abu Turki's family. Katz said the settlers were still shocked by the youths' actions that led to Abu Turki's death and stressed that they did not represent the settlement or the 60 youth attending the village.

"Never, even during the intifada years or following terrorist attacks were any Arab workers who entered the settlement attacked or called names," he said, noting that a team of social workers, psychiatrists and educators who worked and moni-

tored the youth village throughout the year continued to meet with the youth to discuss the incident.

Katz said that settlers from Beit Haggai had also offered Abu Turki's family assistance and hoped that there would be further meetings between them and the family. He said that Hebron military commanders and the Palestinian and Israeli District Coordinating Offices as well as Civil Administration officials had held several meetings and more were scheduled in order to ensure that calm prevailed.

Nine linked to Arutz 7 questioned by police

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Police questioned the manager and eight other people connected with the settler pirate radio station Arutz 7 yesterday, some under caution, as part of an investigation following a raid on the station's offices last Wednesday. Police are seeking to determine if the station violated the Bezeq and the Channel 2 television and radio laws.

All nine were released on their own recognizance after being questioned.

Outside police headquarters in Petah Tikva, some 200 demonstrators turned out to show their support for the pirate radio station, singing and cheering the members as they entered the police crime division yesterday morning. According to police, most of the nine suspects exercised their right of silence.

Among those questioned yesterday were the station's manager Yaakov Katz, program director Shlomit Melamed, Yoel Tsur, broadcaster Adir Zik, and two residents of Har Bracha, where police found an Arutz 7 transmitter in their raid last week.

Melamed's husband, Rabbi Zalman Melamed - who is director of the Beit El Yeshiva and sits on the station's board of directors - was due to be questioned yesterday at National Police Headquarters in Jerusalem but failed to show up. He reportedly



Supporters of Arutz 7 demonstrate outside police headquarters in Petah Tikva yesterday.

(Israel Sun)

asked police to postpone the questioning to a later date.

Tsur said after being questioned that Arutz 7's struggle is for freedom of speech and he called on the media for support. He recalled a list of government ministers and officials who had visited or been

interviewed by the station, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Katz said the police are doing their job and acting on Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein's orders. The investigation, he said, is clearly politically motivated

and that is why he retained the right to remain silent.

"If this actually ever gets to a trial, then we will have plenty to say, and we will of course want to hear as well from all the attorneys-general from the past 20 years who passionately and cautiously

defended the right to allow Able Nathan and the Voice of Peace to broadcast from the sea, as we do now," Katz said. "Then we will find out if this is a true investigation, or a blow to the freedom of speech and to half the country who want to hear us."

PA forces quell Bethlehem feud

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority has reinforced security forces and appealed for dialogue in an effort to calm tension in Bethlehem - where local officials have been feuding.

Palestinian sources said officials are concerned that a series of what has so far been isolated confrontations between PA representatives might explode into factional violence.

Bethlehem political activists said the tension pits Bethlehem residents against those who arrived with Arafat from Tunis and other PLO bases in the Middle

East in 1994.

"It's very much insiders versus outsiders," an activist said. Officials were alarmed by a huge anti-PA demonstration in the Dehaishe refugee camp on June 13, which eyewitnesses said nearly erupted into gunfire. About 1,000 Palestinians demonstrated against what they charged was PA corruption and high-handedness.

The demonstration was sparked by a confrontation the previous day in which a PA security officer and son of a senior commander, Ayman Eid, threatened and cursed a prominent Dehaishe resident. Eyewitnesses quoted Eid as shouting that he would return to

the refugee camp and rape all the women.

At the following day's demonstration, the protesters stood in front of PA police headquarters and blocked the Jerusalem-Hebron highway.

At one point, a PA officer from Dehaishe arrived with a weapon and boxes of ammunition and threatened to open fire unless the harassment against Dehaishe residents ended.

The officer was persuaded to remove the ammunition without incident. "They prevented a minor war here," a Bethlehem source said.

Bethlehem police commanders, alarmed at the potential for violence, summoned PA Preventive Security Service chief Jibril Rajoub and PA West Bank police commander Brig. Gen. Haj Ismail. Rajoub, responding to the demands of Dehaishe residents, briefly detained Eid.

At the orders of Arafat, the two security chiefs met with Dehaishe residents and ordered the opening of a complaints center where Bethlehem residents could voice their grievances twice a week to a PA representative.

The Dehaishe protest followed tension in Bethlehem earlier this month when Arafat was forced to suspend the city's Force 17 commander, Kifah Barakat, after he slapped deputy Bethlehem governor Munzir Irshid during an argument.

PA sources said Arafat is hoping to demonstrate an effort toward clean government that would begin with a cabinet reshuffle.

The Palestinian Legislative Council has set a deadline for Arafat to complete the reshuffle by tomorrow, but a senior PA official, Tayeb Abdel Rachim, said the matter might take until the end of the month.

So far, none of the major Palestinian factions, whether secular or Islamist, has agreed to join.

Continued from Page 1

"I've said this many times: that unilateral acts of any kind at this point do not help."

Olmert, who shared the podium with Netanyahu, justified the idea of incorporating several of the towns on the city's western periphery into a single super-municipality on the grounds that "there is no justification for so many local councils and their respective bureaucracies and budgets."

On the other hand, he stressed that only those communities which have land reserves on which housing can be built will be annexed. He excluded Mevasseret Zion from this category and said he did not intend to annex it.

Netanyahu accused the Palestinian Authority of whipping up overseas opinion against the scheme, implying that this was done in retaliation for Israel's successful campaign to thwart its attempt to win UN recognition of its purported status as a "virtual state."

"We are not trying to unravel the Oslo Accords," he went on. But he charged that the PA not only violated them by its abortive UN initiative, but also by trying to infiltrate its security personnel into the city and setting up offices as well.

Netanyahu insisted that there is no political significance to the plan's timing. Originally, he had intended to present it in conjunction with the annual Jerusalem Day festivities, but it was impossible to prepare it by then, he said.

Having won Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's support from the outset, Netanyahu said an initial allocation of NIS 340 million had been earmarked for the project "without requiring any alteration of the national budget. The purpose is to attract thousands of young people to Jerusalem by enabling them to buy apartments and providing suitable places of public entertainment," he said.

At the same time, the overarching objective is to expand Jerusalem's industrial base by introducing more high-tech firms and "turning it into Israel's Silicon Valley," he said.

Declaring that the plan's benefits would accrue to the city's Arabs as well as to its Jews, Netanyahu said his government is "the first" to invest in Jerusalem's eastern [Arab] neighborhoods. "Go there and take a look," he told the journalists. "You'll see the new streets and sidewalks and all the other improvements."

Another of the plan's goals, he said, is to "develop and protect" the city's sites associated with Jewish history. Asked if its Christian and Moslem sites would be given similar treatment, he replied in the affirmative.

Olmert came to his aid, noting that the municipality had invested in the Garden of Gethsemane and that the overriding purpose is to make these places attractive to tourists.

The cabinet communique was unequivocal about the implications of its decision. It said the main components would "enlarge Jerusalem's area of jurisdiction, establish an 'umbrella' municipality around Jerusalem, streamline services in the expense of Jerusalem, and encourage science-oriented industries in Jerusalem."

Netanyahu was quoted as having told the ministers that "there was no basis for the condemnation of Israel because of this plan. Israel is working for the strengthening of Jerusalem. No one is talking about changing Jerusalem's political status, and there is no addition of territory on the east of the city but on its west." He expressed hope that "Israeli elements" were not encouraging the Palestinians to assail Israel on this issue. "This is a blessed thing - which raises Jerusalem to the top of the government's priorities," he said.

Elli Wohlgeterner and Hillel Kutler contributed to this report.

In great grief we mourn the death of our beloved
RABBI JOSEPH L. BRAVER

Wife: Helene, Baltimore
daughter & son-in-law Sharon & Harold Lipsky
& grandchildren, W. Hempstead
Sister Miriam Lifshutz, Chicago
Brother Ralph Braver, Jerusalem
Shiva at 101/15 Rehov Shechtman, Ramat Alei
Sister, Shoshana Dolgin-Be'er Jerusalem
Shiva at 5 Rehov Karen Hayesod

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DAVID RAPHAEL PEARLMAN

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at 10 a.m. on Tuesday June 23 (Shiva 29)
at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem.

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MKs blast annexation decision

By LIAT COLLINS and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

MKs from across the political spectrum attacked the expansion decision yesterday. MK Rami Resnais (Likud), co-chair of the Knesset's Jerusalem caucus, said "By annexing to the west, you're saying you cannot spread eastwards and this is a trend which divides the city. We should develop to the east, which is integral part of the city. Nobody truly thinks we are going to give up Ma'aleh Adumim."

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), a Mevasseret Zion resident, said: "The aggrandizement sickness of [Prime Minister] Benjamin Netanyahu and [Jerusalem Mayor] Ehud Olmert will ruin the lifestyle of the residents of the surrounding area and destroy the green lung at the entrance to Jerusalem." He also said it could destroy the peace process.

Labor Party secretary Raanan Cohen asked for the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee to convene on the issue. "When everything around Netanyahu is burning, he himself goes and pours fuel on the flames with unnecessary provocations," Cohen said.

"It's a crazy government in general, but doubly crazy when it comes to Jerusalem," MK Uzi Baram said before a meeting of the Labor Party leadership. "The prime minister says there is no political significance to this move. If he doesn't understand the political significance and implications, he doesn't know what he's talking about," Baram said.

"Netanyahu and Olmert are dividing Jerusalem, by opening the [exit to the Western Wall] tunnel, building in Ras al-Amud, letting in Ateret Cohanim [to Arab neighborhoods] and now this."

Labor Party chairman MK Ehud Barak said Jerusalem is the heart of the nation but, "This government and mayor are dividing Jerusalem and weakening Israel's status in it. Jibril Rajoub's policemen are roaming the city, Orient House is flourishing, and so is the illegal building there."

A penchant for dramatic pronouncements

The latest tiff with the US, over plans to create a Greater Jerusalem supra-municipality that will extend over the Green Line to suburban settlements like Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev, seems the result both of a misinterpretation of the concept, and a penchant by the government for dramatic pronouncements, rather than quiet negotiation.

In theory, said Hebrew University geography professor Eran Razin, extending a single "municipal umbrella" over areas like Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev need not change the legal status of those areas.

Razin, a researcher at the Jerusalem-based Floersheimer Institute for Policy Studies, will be one of the featured speakers on the topics of merging municipal councils and supra-municipalities scheduled for Thursday in Ramat Gan.

A unification of the various municipalities, blending Ma'aleh Adumim's municipality into Jerusalem, would - according to international law - be illegal, Razin said.

Indeed, attempts in the past by Megilot, a regional council beyond the Green Line in the northern Dead Sea area, to merge with the regional council encompassing Ein Gedi just south of it, failed because of legal issues.

The same was true of attempts by Har Adar, situated just beyond the Green Line, to merge with the Mateh Yehuda Regional Council situated within the pre-1967 boundaries.

But, Razin said, the status of a community does not change if, for instance, it comes to an agreement with a larger city to use its educational services.

Part of the brouhaha over the Greater

IN CONTEXT

By HERB KEHON

Jerusalem plan stems from the fact that its details are so murky. Even Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai was quoted at yesterday's cabinet meeting as saying he is not clear what a supra-municipality actually means.

Much, however, can be learned about the overall idea by looking at details of a plan submitted to the government just after the 1996 elections. According to this plan, submitted by Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel, a Greater Jerusalem supra-municipality would be created that would incorporate Jerusalem, Ma'aleh Adumim, Givat Ze'ev, Efrat,

Beitar, Har Adar and Mevasseret Zion.

Under the plan, this umbrella municipality would coordinate policy on matters such as sewage, security, and garbage.

Each of the communities, however, would remain independent entities and not become neighborhoods of the capital.

One of the ideas behind the plan was to save money, since - for instance - the communities could share resources, instead of each one maintaining its own security and emergency services.

Kashriel, who was interested in having Jerusalem extend its sovereignty over his city, also envisioned the plan solving the problem of Jerusalem's land reserves for development by putting at the city's disposal tens of thousands of dunams from these outlying communities.

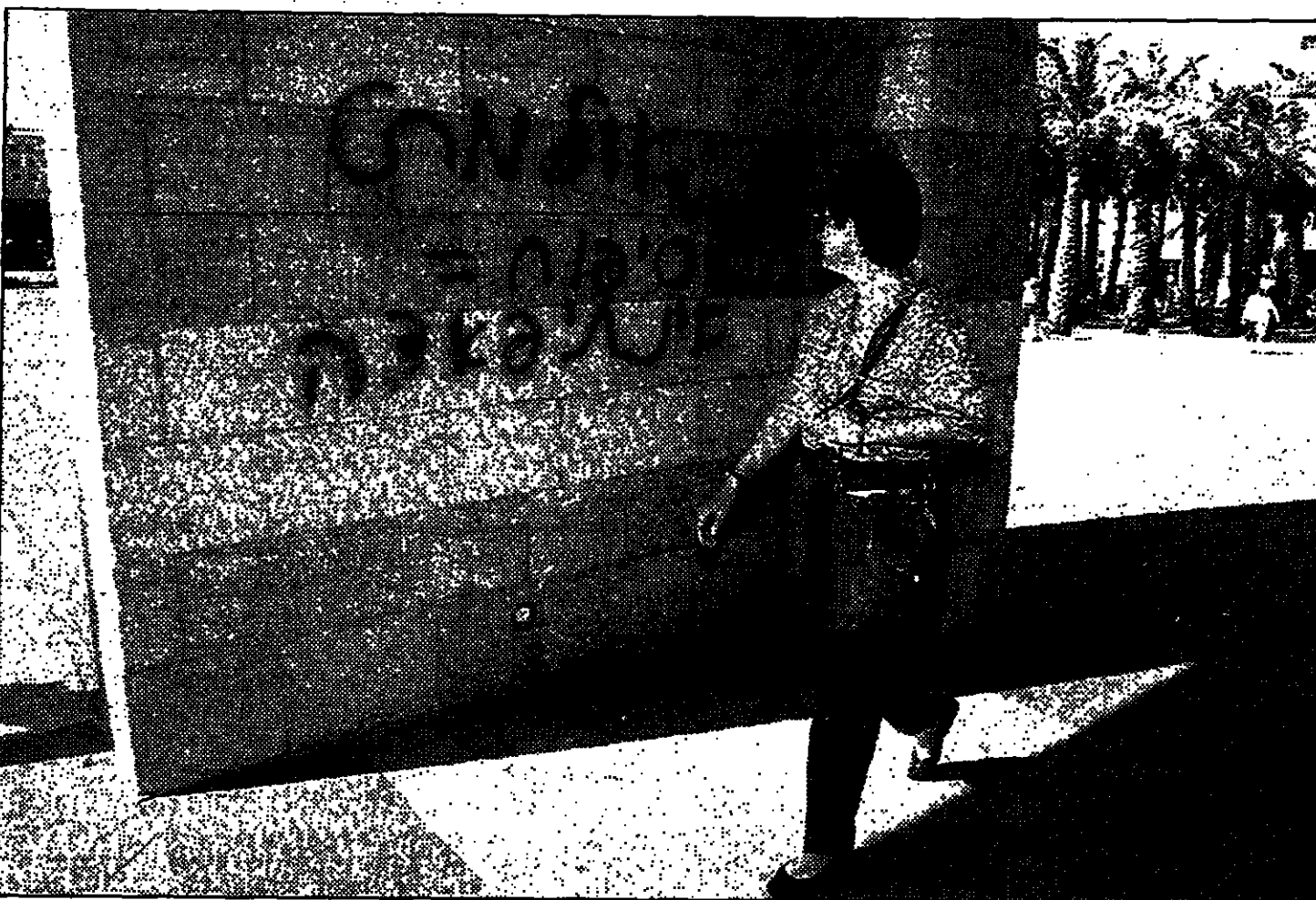
This, however, is much more complicated, and could run into legal problems

since the final planning authority beyond the Green Line is the Defense Ministry, while inside the Green Line it is the Interior Ministry.

Using services does not change a community's status, Razin said, but joint planning is already a different story, whose legal standing is not clear.

Proposals for an umbrella municipality were also made under the Rabin government, said Shlomo Hasson, a Floersheimer Institute researcher and geography professor at Hebrew University. But then it was done quietly.

The government's penchant for dramatic decisions and declarations, Hasson charged, was also evident in dealing with the housing plans at Har Homa and Ras al-Amud - big talk that set off alarm bells ringing around the world, followed by little action.



A woman walks by a wall of a Jerusalem Municipality building yesterday which has been spray-painted with graffiti reading "annexation equals intifada."

Anti-expansion protesters block road

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Hundreds of demonstrators took to the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway near Mevasseret Zion yesterday morning, occasionally burning tires and blocking traffic, in another mass protest against the government's decision to annex territory west of the capital.

Eight protesters were arrested and later released, and one policeman sustained a broken hand.

Activists were studying the plan that was approved in principle by the cabinet yesterday and are expected to petition the High Court of Justice later this week.

"We thought it would happen, so we are only in the middle of the whole thing," said Shmuel Sorek, head of a non-profit organization fighting the annexation. "We are going to appeal, we are going to continue lobbying in the Knesset and the government, continue our demonstrations, and so forth. We're only in the middle - it's a marathon run, it's not a short run."

Yesterday's demonstration involved a number of shuffles with police, who declared it illegal and moved quickly to keep it off the highway, with intermittent success. Horses were used to hold back the

crowd, and a few protesters suffered minor injuries.

"The police brutality was quite amazing, how they dealt with some elderly people," Sorek said. "I saw a policeman hitting an elderly person, maybe 60-65 years old, and run him down with his horse. Then they beat him with the reins. Very unnecessary stuff. It looked like inexperienced policemen, and not enough training. They didn't behave the way they should have."

At yesterday's demonstration residents thought they had an ally in US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who voiced her objection to the annexation plan.

"Albright didn't help us when she intervened, it made the government very conscious of its honor, the independence of the Israeli government to decide what happens in Jerusalem," said Sorek. "So the Israeli consciousness and honor rose to the challenge, and even ministers who said they wouldn't let the decision pass voted for it instead of against it."

The next step is for the Interior Ministry to prepare a detailed plan of the annexation. This plan is to be submitted to the cabinet after the first of August and to the Knesset when it reconvenes in September.

PALESTINIAN PRESS REVIEW

By MICHAEL SELA

Cabinet reshuffle

In a report submitted to the Palestinian parliament a year ago, the Palestinian Authority comptroller exposed mismanagement and misuse of public money in government ministries. The parliament demanded the replacement of ministers, and several months ago the government as a whole resigned. Since then, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat has been avoiding deciding on the make-up of a new cabinet.

Following a special request by Arafat and the PLO Executive Committee, the parliament agreed to postpone a motion of no-confidence to June 25th.

The Palestinian Legislative Council's discussions, Arafat's talks with delegates from all political parties and comments on the issue occupied the front pages and the opinion sections of the Palestinian press last week.

Arafat's talks with all the political parties ensures that there is a Palestinian consensus on the need to create the change, writes al-Quds in an editorial. The definition of political and economic

priorities, the development of democratic mechanisms, the relations between the executive authority and the Legislative Council as well as between the PA and the PLO are all central elements which should be explored during the negotiations over the new government, it says. Calling on all political forces to participate in the efforts to "rearrange the Palestinian home," al-Quds considers it a means to "strengthen the rule of law...to safeguard the freedom of expression and the rights of the Palestinian to live in security and respect."

It seems that people will not dance in the streets when the change in the government is completed, writes Abdullah Awad cynically in al-Ayyam. They understand that the replacement of those who sit on the chairs is not going to change the chairs themselves, he says.

According to Awad, the main reason behind the anticipated change is not the one-year-old report, but a struggle among those who consider themselves apt for the job of a government

minister. The result will be no more than a "change in the face" of the ministers, according to the same political, factional and family lines, he says. Awad finds it quite amusing. The race for a government ministry is probably also a refuge for unemployed, he says, the same as government and public institutions themselves, which also turned into a haven for the unemployed, and then became titles without content.

Awad suggests starting with "a diagnosis of ourselves without decoration," and "defining our needs." Under the current system, "instead of looking for the skilled person we are looking for institutions or departments for people who will be appointed, according to lists made up by the executives and serving primarily their own interests."

Will the cabinet reshuffle cure the problem? "According to this account, the answer is negative, the internal crisis which we face is an overall crisis," Awad says. "Without a thorough and comprehensive change, the crisis will stay as it is, even if we change a thousand governments."

Referendum

Arafat's political adviser, Nabil Abu Rudeineh rejected the idea of an Israeli referendum claiming that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to gain more time instead of executing his commitments. In the face of Netanyahu's playing with time, "we can do a lot to benefit from Netanyahu's experience to raise suggestions and postpone commitments," writes Hani Habib in al-Ayyam.

"The Palestinians, may, for example, say that they want to have a referendum on the issue of canceling of the Palestinian National Covenant. Moreover, the Palestinians may use the time which Netanyahu is playing for to re-evaluate the entire framework of the negotiations, including the performance of the Palestinian negotiation team."

"This does not need a referendum but a political decision, which is more important than the ministerial shift, which, in itself, will not be more than a reproduction of the crisis," it says.

SPNI fears plan would hurt nature

By LIAT COLLINS

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel condemned the annexation plan for Jerusalem adopted at yesterday's cabinet meeting, describing it as an attempt to bypass planning and construction laws and procedures.

"The plan is not aimed at bringing about a demographic change as the municipality is claiming but to further wide-sweeping development plans which planning bodies have rejected in the past and which are motivated by real estate entrepreneurs," said Amit Shapira, head of the SPNI's nature protection department.

Shapira said that five years ago 15,000 dunams were annexed to Jerusalem, and some of that land remains unused.

"Within the current jurisdiction of Jerusalem there is an unrealized potential for some 50,000 housing units, but this fact doesn't bother the Jerusalem Municipality or stop it from arbitrarily demanding the annexation of land to the west of the capital," Shapira said.

"This type of annexation, aimed

at gratifying those interested entrepreneurs who want to get rich at the expense of the public's assets and welfare, will not only cause serious harm to natural assets and the landscape and destroy the Jerusalem hills, it will also have the opposite effect to what the municipality wants," Shapira said.

Residents of the socio-economically stronger neighborhoods will move to the periphery, and the center of the city will be left with the weaker strata, which will lead to the atrophy of the old neighborhoods in the center of Jerusalem," he said.

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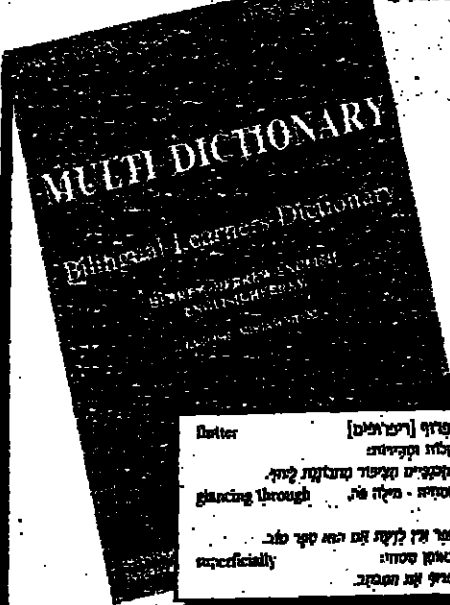
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Technion satellite set to blast off

By DAVID RUDGE

A second Technion satellite is set to blast off for space aboard a Russian Zenith rocket tomorrow, three years after the first effort ended in failure.

Students, scientists and experts from hi-tech companies who have invested seven years of work on the \$8 million project will be keeping their fingers crossed that the Gurwin II TechSat micro-satellite will not suffer the same fate as its predecessor.

The launch is to take place in the morning from the Baikonur Space Center in Kazakhstan, and within a few hours it will be known whether it has been successful.

The first Gurwin TechSat was launched aboard a converted Russian SS-25 rocket that had formerly been used as an intercontinental ballistic missile from the cosmodrome at Plesetsk in the arctic circle, 900 kilometers north of Moscow.

On that occasion, the fifth stage of the rocket did not ignite, and the module with the Technion satellite inside did not reach its orbit and crashed back to Earth.

The second and improved version of the Technion satellite will be launched "piggyback style" along with a large Russian one and four other smaller satellites: Australian, German-Belgian, British-Chilean and British-Thai.

The Zenith rocket to be used in tomorrow's launch is considered to

be far better suited for the job and has proven to be highly successful in previous missions of this nature.

The TechSat II, named after New York businessman Joseph Gurwin, whose contributions made the project possible, is the smallest of all the satellites that will be aboard the Zenith.

The cube-shaped satellite measures just 45 centimeters on each side and weighs only 48 kilograms, but packs a high-tech payload.

It is considered to be the most inexpensive model of its kind with the lowest power consumption for its size — 10 watts compared to an average lightbulb's 60-100 watts. The energy is provided by four solar panels on the sides of the cube, which will be used to power the various scientific experiments, including the satellite's specially developed electricity-saving mini computer.

The satellite, which has also been funded by the Science Ministry through the auspices of the Israel Space Agency, will provide communication services and be used for tests using X-ray detectors and a device for measuring ozone concentration in the Earth's atmosphere.

TechSat is scheduled to reach an orbit altitude of 830 kilometers and will circle the Earth every 119 minutes. The data collected will be transmitted to the ground station at the Technion's Asher Space Research Institute, headed by Prof. Moshe Guelman.

Israel, France to probe space, laser cooperation

By STEVE RODAN

Israel and France intend to expand space cooperation and begin development of laser technology that has military applications, officials from both countries said yesterday.

The officials met during a Tel Aviv workshop sponsored by the Israel Space Agency and the French Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (National Center for Space Studies), and discussed joint research programs that would significantly widen cooperation in space reconnaissance.

Israel Space Agency chairman Yuval Neeman said Israel and France are currently working on four joint projects with the intention of adding additional programs. He said Israel hopes to use its cooperation with the French to be eventually integrated into the European Space Agency.

"We will try to see some possibilities for mutual cooperation," said Alain Ben-Soussan, director of the French space agency. "Israel certainly has a strong industry and is very active in computers and is already supplying French and European industries with equipment. Israel is an active actor in this field."

Ben-Soussan said the fields of cooperation include the use of space reconnaissance satellites for environmental studies, climatology, global changes and agriculture. "France and Israel are both on the Mediterranean Sea and have a need to develop these programs," he said.

The French space director said

he foresees continued cooperation in which his country and Israel use its own satellites for research while sharing instruments to conduct research. He said the two countries would use small inexpensive satellites for research cooperation.

Avraham Tal, head of remote sensing at Tel Aviv University's Interdisciplinary Center for Technological Analysis and Forecasting, said Israel and France began cooperation in space in December 1990 when they signed an agreement for the Israeli reception of data from the Spot Image satellite. The cooperation eventually included joint programs and seminars in which each side financed their part of the project.

Tal said the current workshop, which ends today, is being attended by the largest visiting French space delegation to Israel — 16 representatives and scientists. They are joined by about 40 Israeli researchers and officials.

"The goal is to find a subject in which there is joint interest between Israeli and French researchers," Tal said. "Beyond the finding of subjects, our goal is to head toward joint projects of research and development. One of the subjects is to integrate laser and radar to see unidentified objects and dust in the atmosphere [and] also to make precise measurements of the earth."

Tal said the Lidar project — which integrates laser and radar — has military applications, but he stressed that the research is civil-



Prof. Alain Ben-Soussan, chairman of the French space agency, Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales (left), and Prof. Yuval Neeman, chairman of the Israel Space Agency, at a joint workshop at Tel Aviv University yesterday.

ian. He said that Israel requires partners for space cooperation because the costs of such projects are too prohibitive for one country.

"The area of space is very expensive and countries are seeking ways to cut costs," he said. "One of the ways is cooperation. You see it in the Russian space station. One country alone can't advance all that it seeks to do. And Israel fortunately in scientific and

technology is in the position to build cooperation with NASA and the Europeans."

The Israel Space Agency is monitoring the imminent launching of the Technion satellite TechSat, which was developed by a team of university scientists and students together with Israel Aircraft Industries' Mabat division. The tiny TechSat, which measures 45-by-45-by-45 centimeters and weighs 50 kilograms, will be

launched on a Russian Zenith rocket booster.

The microsatellite will carry a payload for scientific research as well as for communications for ham radio operators. IAI executives said they hope that the research with the Technion will result in turning microsatellites into a viable product for countries and institutions that want to purchase small and inexpensive satellites.

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Schoolgirl dies from injuries

By ELLI WOHLGELER
and news agencies

Amelia Cohen, the nine-year-old Jerusalem girl who fell from a second-story school window last Tuesday, died yesterday from the severe blow to the head she received in the fall.

Dr. Eli Ashkenazi, senior doctor of neurosurgery at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, said she had been listed as brain dead since Friday morning, but because members of the family expected a miracle to save her life, doctors respected the family's wishes to continue life-saving efforts.

Doctors prepared the family for her death, as the nine-year-old had

been on a respirator in critical condition since her injury. Cohen's heart stopped beating at 10:00 a.m. yesterday, and she was pronounced dead shortly thereafter. Her parents were at her bedside when she died.

The funeral is scheduled for 3 p.m. today at Har Hamenuhot cemetery. "In my opinion, this is simply a disaster," said her distraught father, Avraham Cohen. "It's murder - in my opinion, they murdered my daughter."

"That they didn't put back the bars [on the school's window] after they took them down - they murdered my daughter in a planned way. In this situation it's my daughter, but to all of Israel I say, tomorrow it will be your child."



Jerusalem schoolgirl Amelia Cohen (Flash 90)

dren."

Police are continuing their investigation, as is the special five-man committee appointed last week by the Education Ministry, with instructions to submit their recommendations by July 2.

Both investigations center on a protective guard rail that was on the window, but was apparently removed when the building was worked on by contractors last summer. The parents' association reportedly asked the principal that it be replaced.

Police have questioned administrators of the Education Ministry, the city's education department and school officials, some of them under caution.

One person questioned was city official Richard Domy, who reportedly wrote the letter sent to the administration of the Luria School saying there was no need to put back the bars that were on the classroom windows.

Police said they intend to question a number of officials for a second time under suspicion of causing death through negligence.

"What is happening there with watching the children?" Avraham Cohen told Israel Radio. "The anger is great, and I don't know how to express it. They destroyed my second wife, she [Amelia] was her only daughter." Cohen's wife had been trying for nine years to conceive before she became pregnant with Amelia.

Future job uncertain for Michael Eitan

By JUDY SIEGEL

Deputy defense minister MK Silvan Shalom is due to take over as science minister in three weeks, but what Science Minister Michael Eitan will do then is not certain.

Eitan is due to discuss his future with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a meeting on June 29.

Due to a rotation agreement that went into effect a year ago and coincided with former finance minister Dan Meridor's resignation, Eitan was to become deputy defense minister and Shalom to be named science minister after Eitan's year in the position.

During the last year of the Netanyahu government, Eitan and Shalom were supposed to rotate the job again. But Eitan, who is obviously reluctant to be demoted from a minister to deputy minister, is reportedly eager to be a minister in the Prime Minister's Office in charge of coordinating Internet use in the government, according to the latest issue of Information Week.

UTSchoon's spokesman said he could not say what Eitan prefers before the minister meets with the premier. But he did say that among the options are deputy minister in the Finance Ministry or in the Defense Ministry.

In recent years, science ministers have entered, and left frequently as, if by a revolving door. According to the Basic Law, the government is not allowed to have more than 18 ministers.

If Eitan takes a ministry without portfolio, Netanyahu will not be able to reappoint anyone, leaving Geshet MK David Levy to head the Foreign Ministry. As a result, Netanyahu will continue to serve as foreign minister as well as prime minister.

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.



Eager to work

Teens looking for summer jobs converge on the Employment Bureau in Jerusalem yesterday. WIZO, along with other women's organizations, is supporting a bill to ensure equal pay for girls entering the labor force. It recently set up a hot line for complaints against employers who pay young women less than their male counterparts.

(Brian Hendler)

Study: Cellular phones raise blood pressure

By JUDY SIEGEL

A German researcher has found that exposure over a period of 35 minutes to electromagnetic fields (EMF) from cellular phones can raise the blood pressure of healthy young people by between five and 10 points.

The finding, published by the prestigious British medical journal *The Lancet* as a letter but not a peer-reviewed study, raised alarm bells among blood pressure experts here.

Prof. Mordechai Popovtzer, director of nephrology at the Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, called for the speedy launching of a randomized, controlled double-blind study to examine alleged effects of EMF from cellular phones on blood pressure.

He noted that the German report, by Dr. Stephan Baume of the University Neurology Clinic in Freiburg, was an observational study involving 10 young volunteers.

"Now research should be done on a larger group divided into research and placebo controls, first healthy people and then those who already suffer from hypertension."

Brauge and his team connected a cellular phone to the right side of the head and switched them on by remote control at various intervals without the subjects being aware when they were exposed to EMF.

Blood pressure went up "significantly" after exposure, even when they were lying down and resting. The researchers said that if confirmed by other studies, the finding could mean adverse effects on people suffering from hypertension.

Calling high blood pressure the "silent killer," because it has no obvious symptoms, Popovtzer added that 20 percent of the Israeli population has it.

However, half of these are unaware of it; half of those who are aware are untreated; and the blood pressure of half of those who are treated has not declined.

Chronic high blood pressure greatly increases the risk of stroke, heart disease and kidney damage.

Cellcom's spokeswoman said yesterday that it had "not heard of the study and would comment after studying it."

Telephone reacted that all the cell phones it markets have been checked by international organizations.

"Many international studies show there are no health dangers from using cellular phones. Telephone welcomes any research that will be carried out" by international bodies and will continue to abide by its guidelines.

Communications Minister director-general Daniel Roseme said he supported the idea of research being conducted here on alleged health effects of cellular phones.

"The rule has been - those who cause the effect should pay for research. But since we didn't want the cellular phone companies to determine the agenda of the research, we recommended that various government ministries set up an independent research center, partially financed by the cellular phone companies, to carry out the studies."

The Environment Ministry's deputy chief scientist, Micky Haran, is coordinating this effort, and the ministry spokesman said progress is being made in establishing such a research center.

Police begin crackdown on Haifa pub violence

By DAVID RUDGE

Police are considering tough new measures to crack down on violence at pubs and nightclubs in the Haifa bay-side district known as "Alcohol Valley." This follows the stabbing death in the early hours of Saturday morning of Alla Muzibat, 19, from Migdal village in Lower Galilee, during a fight between Arab and Jewish youths outside the Wings nightclub near the Checkpoint Junction.

Two brothers from the village were injured in the fight. Six suspects were later arrested.

Wings was ordered closed for 30 days and police said they intend to

take other steps following an increase in violence in the region over the past few weeks.

Zviulun police station commander Yitzhak Gissis told reporters yesterday that youths were managing to "take" hidden weapons, such as knives, into the clubs. He said the police intend to ensure that metal detectors are installed at the clubs and anyone trying to enter with a metal weapon would be stopped.

In addition, Gissis said police would increase inspections at pubs and clubs in the area in order to deter potential trouble-makers.

Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna condemned the killing and

denounced the recent wave of violence. He said that coordinated activities by police, the fire brigade, and the municipality had helped significantly to curb criminal activities at the clubs and pubs over the past three years.

"Unfortunately, in the past few weeks there has been a dramatic increase in violence and of course we will have to continue to deal with the matter," said Mitzna. "The education system in Haifa is dealing day and night with issues relating to violence and behavior. Together with the police, we'll have to ensure that nightclubs, which should be open, are safe for anyone who wants to visit them."

International prison commissioners parley opens in capital

By GIL HOFFMAN

The privatization of the country's prison system will be discussed by prison commissioners from 23 countries at a week-long conference which opened yesterday in Jerusalem.

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Prisons Commissioner Amos Azani were to open the conference last night. Israel is hosting the annual meeting for the first time as part of the jubilee.

"The goal of the conference is to establish ties between the participants, to inform them of Israel's accomplishments in its prison sys-

tem and to have high-level discussion on a number of important topics," Azani said.

Israel is examining whether its prisons can be privatized, said Azani, noting that many of the countries represented at the conference have successfully privatized their prison systems.

Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein is to address the conference today on increasing understanding and cooperation between judicial and prison systems.

President Ezer Weizman is to host the commissioners at Beit Hamassi today. Later in the week the commissioners are to focus on methods of drug rehabilitation in

prisons and will visit Tzalmot Prison.

"Israel is considered one of the leaders in dealing with drugs in prisons," said Prisons Service spokeswoman Levana Levy-Shai. "The conference will discuss improving the educational system and socialization in jails to help prisoners become better citizens."

Azani said he hopes the conference will lead to the formation of an international organization of prison authorities. "The conference will put Israel's prison system on the map of influential correctional systems internationally," he said.

NEWS

in brief

Local man dies after taking Viagra

A 75-year-old Ramat Gan resident who died after taking a Viagra pill and having sex with his wife got the pill from a friend, and not from a doctor, the Health Ministry said yesterday. The case was the first reported death in Israel connected with the new anti-impotence pill. The man, who was married for 50 years, had previously suffered a heart attack. The drug, not yet licensed here, is legally obtainable only by prescription from a doctor, who fills out a form for the personal import of Viagra. People with a history of heart disease, especially those who take nitroglycerin, should not take the pill without consulting their doctor, because both drugs together can cause a fatal drop in blood pressure.

Judy Siegel

Histadrut headquarters to return to Tel Aviv

Histadrut officials have approved a recommendation by the labor federation's chairman, Amir Peretz, to move Histadrut headquarters back to Tel Aviv from Jerusalem.

A statement signed by a majority of parties, including the Likud, said: "Despite the fact that for many years we wanted the Histadrut to move to Jerusalem, there is a difference between slogans and reality. The Histadrut must take care of workers in Israel, and more of them come to the building in Tel Aviv." *Itim*

Ben-Porat explains visits abroad

Facing criticism for two trips abroad in her last few weeks as State Comptroller, Miriam Ben-Porat yesterday released a communique explaining the visits. Ben-Porat said she had been granted an honorary doctorate by the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York last month and that part of her trip to the US was paid for by JTS. On Friday, Ben-Porat returned from a two-and-a-half day visit to Slovenia at the invitation of the Slovenian ombudsman. In response to grumbling in the Knesset that she should have stayed home to finish the Tze'elim 2 training accident report, Ben-Porat said it would take three months to complete the report and her trips abroad had no affect.

Dan Izenberg

Bill would ban force-feeding geese

MK Avraham Poraz (Shinui) has submitted a bill to ban the force-feeding of geese for the goose-liver industry. Several countries including England, the US, Scandinavia, and even France have banned the practice because of the suffering it causes the birds.

The feeding, done by forcing a 40-cm pipe with a 3/4 inch diameter down the goose's gullet, often causes infections and the forcible enlarging of the liver - to 10 times natural size - also causes sicknesses. Poraz said according to Agriculture Ministry figures, some 12 percent of the birds die as a result of the force-feeding before they can be slaughtered. *Liat Collins*

Councils petition Court over nursery tuition

The Union of Local Authorities yesterday petitioned the High Court of Justice against the cabinet's decision canceling tuition exemption for nursery schools in development areas.

The petition stated that, two months after the start of the school year, parents were informed that they would have to pay. ULA attorney Sharon Haberman told the court this placed an unfair burden on the councils, since they could not ask parents to pay after they had already enrolled their children. ULA chairman Avi Eldar said the councils cannot afford to pay the nursery school fees. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Ministry may ban political slogans on transport

Transport Ministry Director-General Nahoum Langental said yesterday he was considering banning all political slogans on public transport due to a dispute over a public relations campaign using advertising on the side of buses to promote Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's proposal to draft yeshiva students.

The bus slogan said, "One nation, one draft," a play on words of an earlier campaign to promote the conversion bill, which read, "One nation, one conversion." The Egged and Dan cooperatives had removed the latter slogans following pressure from haredi groups, who threatened to boycott the buses. *Haim Shapiro*

Geneticist: Babylon origin of all Diaspora Jews

The absence of a certain blood factor in Jews of Iraqi and Ashkenazi origin "shows a close genetic connection between these two communities and testifies to the fact that all Diaspora Jewish communities originate from Babylonian Jewry" after the exile, according to Prof. Uri Zeligson, chief of hematology at Sheba Hospital and head of the blood clotting institute at Tel Aviv University. Zeligson disclosed this finding at an international conference on research into Babylonian Jewry that was held last week. *Judy Siegel*

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By MICHAEL MCKEE

"If the currency is weak then there's no way the stock market will be able to do anything but go down," said Celia Farnon, a director at Nomura International Plc. "We're totally at the mercy of the currency." Still, investor reaction following Saturday's meeting of officials from the

US officials, while conceding they were impressed by the deter-

Before yesterday's meeting, Summers won a pledge from Finance Minister Hikaru

The weekend's meeting came in response to pressure from US officials and complaints by other Asian nations that Japan wasn't doing enough to boost its economy out of recession.

"The most important thing is to try to alter the conditions which, if

Officials at the Tokyo meeting issued a veiled warning that they were prepared to act again should the yen resume its precipitous slide. In the statement they "welcomed the joint action in the exchange markets by the Japanese and US authorities (and) agreed to monitor developments closely and to cooperate as appropriate." US and other officials know, however, that intervention, no matter how massive, can only help ratify

There's a very important window of opportunity (for Japan to act) and we very much desire that Japan take advantage of this opportunity as quickly as possible," Summers said at the conclusion of the Tokyo meeting. "Japanese authorities recognize the need to move forward in an aggressive way." Summers pressed Japan to make permanent the temporary tax cuts enacted earlier this year. That's one step that could boost consumer confidence, which has been sinking since a series of tax increases in 1997.

By ERIC QUINONES

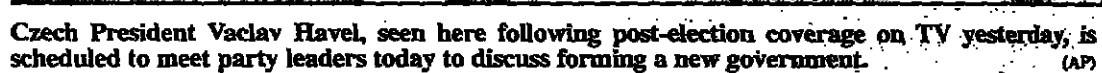
While fighting a government antitrust lawsuit against

One notable new member of this year's list was the family of former Indonesian president Suharto, whose 32 years in power enabled him to amass stakes in about 3,200

If royalty were included among the top billionaires, the sultan of Brunei would have ranked third at \$36b. The oil-rich sultan was

American billionaires on the list rose to 70 from 60, while Europeans accounted for 52, up from 44. Among business kinglys who made the list were media tycoon Rupert Murdoch at \$5.3b.; British entrepreneur Richard Branson at \$1.9b.; and Japanese real estate and transportation mogul Yoshiaki Tsutsumi, once the world's richest businessman, at \$5.7b.

The average net worth of the top 200 billionaires was \$4.7b., up from \$3.9b. in 1997.



By NIGEL STEPHENSON

"I would find it paradoxical if a

The election, held two years

Pensioners of the Christian Democrats

"We intend to sign the convention on political and civil rights this fall," Jiang said in an interview which will appear in the *Newsweek* edition on sale from

Newsweek quoted Jiang as saying the UN covenant on economic, social and cultural rights, which


On Clinton's visit, Jiang said: "The overall objective is to pro-

er toward a constructive strategic partnership," he added. "Since then, China-US relations have

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**THE JERUSALEM
POST**

Channel 2's 'Hot Season'

By HELEN KAYE

At Keshet, summer is never the silly season. Where some TV channels might dust off the reruns, this Channel 2 franchise has introduced a new summer line-up for three years in a row. This year there are 12 new shows in what Keshet is billing as "The Hot Season," from first-run movies, entertainment and local sitcoms to three new English-language series.

The courtroom drama, *Murder 1*, on Mondays at 11:15 p.m., started its new and final season on June 1. *Cracker*, multi-award winning UK police show, makes its final-season debut on Thursday with a two-part special set in Hong Kong. The third new show, *Relativity*, is billed as a romantic drama which revolves around the life and loves of young twenty-somethings who meet in Los Angeles after a summer romance in Rome. It premiered last Monday and airs at 6 p.m., hardly prime time for such a series.

Romance novelist Danielle Steel has inspired three half-hour teleplays which start July 16 at 6 p.m. They are *Vanished*, *No Greater Love* and *Kaleidoscope*, whose heroines struggle with the odds before that silver lining shows up on the horizon.

Two more shows starting this week are the enormously popular Hebrew language *Bat Yam* - *New York* and *Shemesh*, Thursdays at 9 and 8:30 p.m., respectively. *Shemesh* (Zvika Hadar) is returning for a second season after scoring consistently high ratings in the first one. The show hasn't been out of the top 10 for the last five weeks.

The third season of *Bat Yam* is a spin-off of the parent series in which David (Yigal Adika) leaves the parental home for his own place and life.

Keshet also bagged two eminent journalists, Dan Margalit and Yaron London. They've both been on the road, and starting tonight for eight weeks in *On the Map*. Margalit will bring a different locale into your living room together with guest personalities, the people who live there, the problems they face and their hopes for the future. The first three programs are in Kiryat Shmona, Beersheva and Ashdod at 10 p.m.

London has called his documentaries *The Far Man with the Sony*. They're a look at Israel and the Israelis in this Jubilee year. The gimmick is the footage from London's camera - hence the title - which affords a sort of behind-the-scenes addition to the main thrust of the films. They are set in such disparate locations as the Hirya garbage dump, the Tze'elim army base in the Negev and the town of Umm el-Fahm. The 11-part series starts August 17 at 10:40 p.m.

Keshet is aiming two new series at youngsters and their parents. *Zbang*, starting September 3, is based on the grotesque comic strip by Uri Fink in the youth magazine, *Ma'ariv Lanoar*. It stars Sandy Bar as The Blonde and Yossi Graber as a freakish teacher in the high school where the series is set. *Kinneret's Secrets*, which hasn't been cast yet, is due for an October launch and is about a year in the life of a little girl who has refused to speak since her father lost his life in an accident.

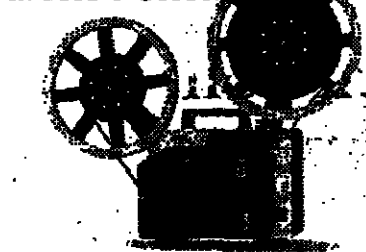
Of course there are also the fun shows, like *Blind Date* with the inimitable Rivka Michaeli and Gil Sassover hosting the new *Unusual Evening*, (Erev Lo Ragil) both starting tonight at 8:30 and 9 p.m. respectively, while from August 17 Shalom Assayag will host *Life's a Ball* which is so new that no details, other than the fact that there will be prizes, are available yet.



The award-winning British drama series 'Cracker,' starring Robbie Coltrane, returns on Thursday.

Chinese poetry meets Donny Osmond

Movie Review



By Adina Hoffman

It's a peculiar movie that relies both on the outline of a ballad composed by an anonymous fifth-century Chinese poet and the singing voice of Donny Osmond. Add to this mixture the perky animation techniques favored by Walt Disney, and you have the weird hybrid that is *Mulan*, the studio's latest musical feature. Despite its mongrel pedigree, it's their most satisfying effort of the last several years.

With characters like a bad-talking runt of a dragon called Mushu (the unmistakably black,

American voice of Eddie Murphy), this cartoon folk tale is definitely not for purists. But it also manages to use its Asian source and setting in ways that are a good deal more powerful and convincing than those Disney has

MULAN

★★★★

Directed by Barry Cook and Tony Bancroft. Screenplay by Rita Hsiao, Christopher Sanders and others. Music by Matthew Wilder. Lyrics by David Zippel. Hebrew title: *Mulan*. 88 minutes. The film exists in two versions: English dialogue with Hebrew subtitles, and dubbed Hebrew. General audiences. With the voices of Ming-Na Wen, Eddie Murphy, B.D. Wong, Harvey Fierstein and Pat Morita.

managed in their other recent forays into multiculturalism and classical mythology. While a picture like *Pocahontas*



Mulan fits the standard Disney profile of a feisty young heroine.

bogged down in politically correct sanctimony, and *Hercules* threatened to trivialize the ancient original, *Mulan* walks the fine line

between respect for the Chinese legend on which the movie is based, and the need to maintain a sense of humor. The drama, in other words, dates back to the Six Dynasties period of Chinese history while the jokes are all vintage late-90s Americana.

In addition, the animators have attempted for the first time I can remember in the studio's history to make vital use of visual elements from the culture in question: the film opens with a lovely, watercolor sequence and turns later to a series of grand snowy landscapes and views of the Imperial Palace backdrops whose color, perspective and scale are clearly influenced by Chinese painting. This deeper, more integrated sense of what it means to borrow a story from a foreign tradition is a welcome change from the tenor of Disney's standard warm and fuzzy bowdlerizations.

More important still, the movie has a compelling and likeable character at its center. *Mulan* (the voice of Ming-Na Wen) fits the standard Disney profile of a feisty young heroine who wanders the wilderness with a few good-natured animal companions at her side. (In addition to Murphy's fire-breathing Mushu, she's accompanied by a lucky cricket.) She is, though, less saccharine and less

Barbie-Doll busy than average, and the difficulties she faces in playing the obedient, silent daughter are understandable. The story's origins are supposed to be Chinese, but I could swear that the filmmakers also had Isaac Bashevis Singer's - or maybe Barbara Streisand's - Yentl in the back of their minds.

At the start of the movie, the Huns attack. War is declared on this gray-skinned, orange-eyed race of mustachioed ogres who maraud and pillage their way across the countryside on ominous-looking steeds. When every Chinese family is ordered to send one male representative to enlist, Mulan's frail old father prepares to leave, much to his daughter's chagrin.

Determined to stop him from going off to fight a battle he has no way surviving, she rises in the middle of a nighttime thunderstorm, steals his armor and, after cutting her hair and dressing up as a boy, gallops off on her impressive black mare to the army base where she reports for duty.

There is a pleasant spookiness to much of the action, and directors Barry Cook and Tony Bancroft aren't afraid to let their cartoon be dark, even scary, in places. Several of the battle and crowd scenes are masterful in their scope, and the film builds to a dramatic climax that is at once striking to look at, theatrically strong, and funny.

Disney will, of course, always be Disney. My main, and fairly minor, complaints about *Mulan* concern the occasional psychobabble and New Age talk that creep into the script and lyrics. "Once you find your center, you are sure to win" has the sort of ersatz-Eastern ring one imagines may be closer to the hearts of certain acupuncture-loving Hollywood executives than to anything authentically Chinese. More problematically, the music, by Matthew Wilder and David Zippel, is mediocre and belted - mainly by Osmond and Lea Salonga - in Disney's usual pop-oriental way. It's a pity that Stevie Wonder's lively "True to Your Heart" has been tacked onto the closing credits instead of figuring in the body of the film.

NEWS

of the muse

By HELEN KAYE

Additional performance of 'Medea'

Saying that "Medea represents the universal and prominent values of humanity," Greek Ambassador Doctor Sotiris Zaroukakis yesterday dedicated the Greek National Theater performance of Euripides' *Medea* to Israel's jubilee. The performance, scheduled for today at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, is totally sold out, so there will be an additional performance tomorrow.

UN screens Channel 2 anti-drug films

Two Israeli anti-drug documentaries, *Trip to Allah* and *Another Day*, were shown at the recent UN War on Drugs Convention held at the UN. The films were shown as part of a symposium called "The place of the media in the world-wide war on drugs." *Trip to Allah* deals with drug rehabilitation through Islam, and was produced for *Shabbat Salaam* the program dedicated to Arab/Jewish coexistence. Shown on the program dedicated to Israeli documentaries, *Teva Te'uda*, *Another Day* shows the road to self-esteem acquired by addiction-prone youth after a week long, tough desert hike. Both films were produced by Channel 2.

Israeli students win film awards

Five films shared the top prizes in the Seventh International Student Film Festival at Tel Aviv University, which ended last week. Dover Koshashvili (Israel) won the \$8,000 first prize for his feature film *No Laws*, about an immigrant family from Georgia. Second prize of \$5,000 went to Nir Bergman (Israel) for *Sea Horses*, and the \$2,500 third prize went to Damien de Pierpont (Belgium) for *Liar*. In the documentary category, Lodz film school student Matgorzata Szumowska won \$5,000 for *Silence*, about a village family, while the animated film *Slovakia* gained \$2,000 for Katerina Urbanova Kerekosova from Bratislava. Other major prizes included Best Director to the UK's Asif Kapadia for *The Sheep Thief* and Cinematography to Antonin Chundela of the Prague Film School for his work on *Takov and Veronika*. Bergman is a graduate of Jerusalem's Sam Spiegel Film School, where *Sea Horses* also won first prize as well as prizes for production and cinematography. Actor Ya'akov Cohen won the \$3,000 ICP prize for his performance in *Lag ba Omer* by Spiegel graduate Sharon Amrani, who shared first prizes, the \$5,000 Mayor's prize and the Magda Mayer Jerusalem Foundation prize, also worth \$5,000.

Top 10 lyricists and composers

Lyricist and 1998 Israel Prize Winner Ehud Manor and singer/composer Shalom Hanoch head their respective top 10 published by ACUM last week. Hanoch is also No. 2 lyricist, followed by Ya'akov Gilad, Yehonatan Gefen, Shlomo Artzi, Ya'akov Rotblit, Danny Sanderson, Yoram Tahar Lev, Rachel Shapira and Kobi Oz. Matti Caspi is No. 2 on the composers list followed by Yehuda Poliker, Artzi again, Rami Kleinstein, Arkadi Duchin, Sanderson, Yuval Banai, Yair Rosenblum and Miki Gavrielov. It doesn't hurt that most of the composers also perform their own material.

Why Davy Jones is not a happy Monkee

At 52, Davy Jones is one angry old Monkee.

Terse and bitter during a phone interview from his Los Angeles apartment, the pint-size flower-power heartthrob admits, however sardonically, that money was a big reason why he has teamed up with Bobby Sherman and Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits for the "Teen Idols Tour."

"No, I don't want any money," Jones says dryly from his apartment in Los Angeles. Sarcasm makes his saccharine English accent sound as alien as Alvin and the Chipmunks doing Marilyn Manson covers. "I don't want to be paid for it," Jones continues in the same biting tone, "I just want a cheese sandwich and a roof over my head."

One would think a man who'd serenaded Marcia Brady, subsequently fulfilling her teen fantasies on a moving episode of *The Brady Bunch*, could put shallow material wants behind him. But "potloads" of money are high on the priority list of the performer who gained fame in the '60s as a member of a faux rock group assembled for the

psychedelic TV show *The Monkees*.

As a *Monkee*, Jones and his pals Mickey Dolenz, Michael Nesmith and Peter Tork held instruments they weren't allowed to play as they sang songs they didn't write. However, Jones will perform such Monkees classics as "Daydream Believer" on the tour, in addition to new material, including a song recently written by Noone and himself.

According to Jones, he's never had conflicts with his old Monkee handlers over whether he could perform old Monkees songs on his own or with the group on reunion tours. "We don't have to ask permission for things like that," he said. After all, it would hardly make sense for Jones not to sing his hits for an audience sure to include die-hard Monkee fans hungry for a blast from the past.

"I have my theme songs, and people know me. It's not something I have to work terribly hard at," he said. "I'm not looking for success. I already have it."

(The Baltimore Sun)

The Florida roots of 'Mulan'

Mulan is a Disney movie that has hit big in the States. This week, it's the turn of the animation studio built by Walt Disney in Florida to build a new studio in Florida. The new studio, now called Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida, is located in Orlando.

When Disney Feature Animation opened at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, in 1989, the focus was on building a new studio behind the scenes, not on how movies were made. The attraction was a major animation facility that made cartoons but not full-length animation features. "In the beginning, we would have never dreamed of doing a feature here," said Peter Schneider, president of Disney's feature animation. "The thought of all those tourists wandering through was frightening. We never be able to keep anything

secret. So the artists were only allowed to work on stock characters like Mickey and Donald." It was kind of strange, having whole families looking over your shoulder while you worked. Mulan co-director Tony Bancroft, who also worked as an animator, said of the early days at the Florida studio, now called Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida.

But that was more than eight years ago, and the animation landscape has grown more competitive. It was inevitable that a major studio would one day start doing animation in Florida, where taxes are low and land is affordable. Disney, increasing its output of animated features, faced a choice of either beefing up its California animation facility or building some feature work to Florida. It also wanted to have a functioning animation studio in the East for artists who did not want to go to the West Coast.

There's a limited number of top artists available, and some of them prefer Florida to California," Schneider said. "If we didn't give them a place to work, someone else would." The transition to feature films began in 1992 - animated films take about five years from start to finish - as *Mulan* began to take shape in a part of the facility away from public scrutiny.

Early reports on the \$90 million film have been good. Test audiences have been enthusiastic and film-industry journalists are predicting strong box-office based on the movie's breathtaking animation.

Today, the studio employs 400 artists working in a 18,580 sq. m. animation center.

While still a fraction of the 2,000 artists employed in Disney's Southern California facility, where the company has been doing animation for 75 years, it was enough to produce a feature film. (Reuters)

60 exciting chamber-music concerts for TA Museum

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Tel Aviv Museum continues to be the major chamber music venue in the center of Israel.

Granted, there are chamber music series galore all over the country as well as many in the Dan region, but only in the Tel Aviv Museum can music lovers choose between eight different series of music.

Four of these series are actually concerts presented by visiting

orchestras: the Israel Camerata Jerusalem and the Israel Sinfonietta Beersheba, both of which make their Tel Aviv home at the museum. But four series are genuine chamber music series with a lot of variety to choose from.

The new series this coming season focuses on the Huberman Quartet, the relative new string quartet which comprises young Israeli musicians who will present a four-concert series featuring music by Shostakovich, Strauss, Schubert, Haydn, Mendelssohn and others, as well as music by

Israeli composers. In each of their concerts another Israeli musician will join the Huberman foursome, to enlarge the overall musical offerings.

The popular a cappella choral series continues, with four concerts by local and visiting ensembles frequently performing rare musical works. The five-concert piano series features, among others, Israeli Avram Reichert, Semyon Kruchin and Boris Bernan, and the six-concert Rush Hour series (Tuesdays at 6) features a varied program of works and ensembles.

However, as usual the leading concert series is the chamber series, featuring 13 concerts, from which subscribers can choose six. Israeli and visiting musicians will perform music by Dvorak, Brahms, Mozart and Bach along with works by contemporary composers such as Martinu, Ligeti and others.

The special events at the museum next season include the annual Francois Shapira competition for young musicians, and the International Felicia Blumenthal Festival featuring renowned Finnish soprano Karita Mattila and

Canadian pianist Louis Lortie (May 12-15). There are also the regular contemporary music concerts presented by both the Musica Nova Ensemble and the Israel Contemporary Players.

The Tel Aviv Museum offers about 60 exciting different chamber music concerts through the season, with something for each and every musical taste. Subscription prices range from NIS 250 (reduced price for the piano, choral or rush hour series) to NIS 540 (full price for the Sinfonietta series).

The Best of Israeli theatre every Tuesday night with simultaneous translation into ENGLISH

INSPECTOR GENERAL

June 23, 1998, at 8:30 p.m.

Directed by Ilan Hatzor, based on Gogol's REVISOR. Starring Yossi Graber, Rami Baruch, Keren Mor, Tiki Dayan.

A comedy of errors that takes place in a town in southern Israel, whose officials are all corrupt. The members of the local council mistakenly believe that a small-time crook who has turned up in their town is actually there on behalf of the State Comptroller. Fearful of their own fate and desperately anxious to please the "comptroller", the local leaders fawn on him and try in every possible way to curry his favor. The women, blinded by the fashionable scent he brings from the large city, flirt with him and respond to his attentions. Against the backdrop of the impersonator-comptroller's boast about his influence with top-ranking figures in government and his personal connections with all the country's "who's who", Israeli provincialism and the norms of behavior of local and central government are exposed.

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See it in HEBREW... Hear it in ENGLISH

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Politicized planning

Yesterday the cabinet unanimously approved a complicated proposal for "strengthening" Jerusalem that would annex a substantial swath of rolling countryside to the west of the city, including townlets and moshavim such as Upper Motza, Beit Zayit, Aminadav, and Tzur Hadassah. Mevasseret Zion, which is the largest and most politically powerful town in the area, has so far escaped annexation itself, but would become an island within the newly expanded Jerusalem.

In addition, the decision calls for the encouragement of the high-tech business sector, housing subsidies to reduce the price gap between the center and periphery, and accelerated development of inner and inter-city rail, bus, and highway infrastructure. According to the cabinet statement, the result of these proposals will be to place Jerusalem "at the top of the pyramid of priorities of the ministries of the government." Of course, the sentiment that something must be done to stem the net Jewish exodus from the city, mainly of young people fleeing high housing prices and a flaccid local economy, is a welcome one. Whether such "decisions" are in fact translated into budget items and action on the ground only time will tell. But the question remains whether the proposal steers the development of the city in the right direction from a planning point of view.

The danger posed by the latest plan to expand the capital is not to the peace process, as the Americans would understand it, but to an orderly planning process to protect the unique character of the city.

Jerusalem's planning dilemma is that expansion to the east, north, and south is dangerous politically, while expansion to the west is dangerous environmentally. The planning debate has therefore centered upon two modes of expansion: increasing sprawl (to the west) or increasing density. In 1997, one environmental impact study recommended against building at all in the Arazim Valley at the city's western gate, advising instead to pack another 40,000 housing units in existing built-up areas. The chief Jerusalem planner, Uri Ben-Asher, refused to even present the study to the city council, on the grounds that the planners were not asked to recommend alternatives to building in the valley.

As Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert himself said at that time, "My starting point is different. The area was annexed with the intention of building on it, otherwise there was no point in annexing it in the first place. The question is

how to build there, not if." But the decision to annex the Arazim Valley was taken in 1993 at the recommendation of a public commission, which made building in the valley a last resort, contingent on the utilization of all available alternatives within existing built-up areas.

Though it is admittedly a slow and difficult process to increase the density of the city, this approach should be followed, because it is the only way to preserve already scarce green spaces. It is always easier, if more expensive in terms of infrastructure, to fill in large tracts of empty land with urban sprawl, rather than increasing density by filling in a patchwork of empty lots and by encouraging higher building in certain areas. But in the long run, succumbing to the temptation for sprawl will make the whole city less livable, harder to get around in, and destroy its character.

The decision to move out, rather than in and up, is faulty in process as well as substance. The people of Mevasseret and other towns targeted for gobbling by Jerusalem have a right to a degree of financial and planning independence from the city. They at least have a right to be heard — there is no justification for the unprecedented step of forcing through an urban plan by law over all local objections, rather than through the regular process of public hearings and commissions.

Further underscoring the politicization of the planning process, the decision created a new "umbrella municipality" to include the Israeli settlements nearest to Jerusalem, principally Ma'aleh Adumim and Givat Ze'ev. According to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, this new arrangement does not change the legal status of those areas — which would be a violation of the Oslo Accords — but simply allows for coordination through the municipality of services already provided to Israelis living over the Green Line. The US State Department's calling this step an "extreme provocation" is itself provocative, in that it exaggerates the diplomatic significance of the action.

The new label may make Olmert's realm sound more grandiose, but it is unlikely to influence decision-making in this sensitive area. The already long-approved and equally non-existent ring road planned to link the city's eastern neighborhoods is, unfortunately, not advanced a wit by Olmert's new umbrella. Such a road would benefit Jerusalem's Arab and Jewish residents equally, and should not be greeted with automatic hostility by the Palestinians, let alone the United States.

Reckless disregard

FELICITY AMOCH

A bill to allow youngsters to begin driving lessons at the age of 16 and a half was endorsed for its first reading last week by the Knesset Economics Committee. This surely crosses the border of bureaucratic inertia to criminal irresponsibility.

In the United Kingdom, drivers aged between 17 and 24 comprise 10% of the drivers yet cause 20% of the crashes. Seventy-five percent of deaths in this age group are from road crashes.

In the US, the numbers are even sadder. In California, it has been shown that as driver age drops, two things happen — speeding increases, as does the death toll per kilometer driven. Speed kills, and more speed in the young kills more.

Forty-four percent of the fatal crashes by 16-year-old drivers

or parent. However, we cannot rely on this recommendation being effective or even enforced.

Driver education in high schools is not the answer. It may be the most convenient way for beginners to learn how to drive, but it only teaches the skill of driving; attitudes and behavior lead teens into many crashes, and these are largely beyond the influence of such courses.

IN the US, police reports indicate that 37% of all 16-year-old drivers in fatal crashes were reportedly speeding or going too fast for road conditions as well as not wearing seatbelts. This proportion drops steadily as age increases.

Why should it be believed that 16- and 17-year-olds in Israel are any different when it comes to thrill-seeking behavior?

A new bill to lower the age at which driving lessons begin crosses the border of bureaucratic inertia to criminal irresponsibility

involve only the teen's vehicle. The vehicle generally left the road and overturned or struck an object such as a tree or pole. Among 16-year-old drivers this is by far the biggest type of crash. In contrast, only 29% of fatal crashes with 20 to 49-year-olds at the wheel are single vehicle.

This has been borne out by data from our own Central Bureau of Statistics which suggest that all, or nearly all, of the new drivers with less than one year experience involved in fatal crashes are under the age of 18.

Rigid restrictions on driving for 17-year-olds, though possibly helpful, will be offset by the added risks of earlier exposure to unrestricted driving thereafter.

Nachman Langens, director-general of the Transportation Ministry and reported to be the official responsible for initiating this issue, has covered it with a fig leaf — youngsters must drive with a trainer

It has been assessed by Dr. Elihu D. Richter, of the Betts Injury Prevention Program of the Hebrew University-Hadassah School of Public Health and Community Medicine, and Zvi Weinberger of Jerusalem College of Technology that each year more than 20 victims, mostly young, will be helped into an early grave and 1,700 will be injured, including some ushered into wheelchairs.

These two scientists should be heeded. They were the only ones in Israel to predict that the raised speed limit would kill some 50 or 60 additional Israelis a year — which is exactly what happened.

Who would be willing to take risks with their children's lives? Surely there cannot be one mother in Israel who will be happy to hear of this new proposal. Probably, most would be relieved if their sons would only start to learn to drive after leaving the army with their newfound maturity and appreciation of life.

Dry Bones



of putting measures into practice that will save lives, public transport fares have been raised, lower rates for parking advocated and car sales encouraged by lowering taxes and opening up a whole new market by lowering the driving age.

Cynical short-term law enforcement crackdowns are just that: short-term. When they come to an end everybody goes back to their old driving habits. Road safety is for life, not two months.

Should this bill to lower the driving age be implemented, the family of the first victim should demand that the minister and his associates be held personally responsible.

The writer is vice-chair, Mevasseret Road Safety Organization, Jerusalem branch.

Inevitable shift

BERNARD WASSERSTEIN

attachment to Israel. But such attachment is significantly weaker among young people than among the over-fifties, and among secular Jews than among religious.

It has long been an accepted truism about British Jewry that the most important and efficient communal organization is the Joint Jewish Appeal. Yet only 13 percent of the sample claimed to contribute to the JIA. Far more gave to non-Jewish charities.

of residence. Israel does not seem to offer a solution to existential problems for most Diaspora Jews — because, rightly or wrongly, most of them do not feel that they face existential problems.

Nor do they feel that Israel itself any longer faces fundamental threats to its very existence like those of 1967 or 1973.

These and other internal and external pressures towards Israel-Diaspora convergence have

The world has changed — and with it Jewish attitudes

Interestingly (and ominously for Zionism), participation in Zionist youth movements seems to make no significant difference to later attitudes towards Israel.

WHY the change? No doubt disapprobation of certain Israeli government policies has something to do with it. But that is only part of the story.

These findings suggest deeper geological movements in collective outlook.

Unlike their immigrant grandparents, young Jews today in most Diaspora communities feel generally at home and at ease in their societies

decreased. As a result, Israel no longer represents for most young Jews a cause that can inspire a burning sense of involvement. A sturdy group commitment to Israel has given way to a vaguer, less stable sense of affinity.

The authors of the DPR report conclude that a "radical shift" is taking place away "from a period of community-wide consensus concerning attachment to Israel." The survey results "show that most Jews in Britain see themselves as firmly rooted in British society and not as a Diaspora waiting to return." There are grounds for thinking that these British findings would be replicated

elsewhere in the Western world. The change in attitudes will trouble those who still adhere to the Zionist doctrine of the unity of the Jewish people. But the shift is an inevitable consequence of successful Jewish integration into liberal capitalist societies.

Surely, it is high time that each side, Israel and the Diaspora, stopped justifying its existence mainly in relation to the other. Now that immigration from most countries of distress is virtually complete, it no longer makes sense for Israel to view its future primarily in terms of its role in solving the "Jewish problem" in the rest of the world. Perhaps, as a result, it is time for Israel to reexamine such sacred cows as the Law of Return.

And now that the Diaspora affords most Jews comfortable, non-threatening political, social and economic environments, they seem able to define their identity in terms that include Israel but no longer make of the Jewish state a secular god.

No doubt most Diaspora Jews, like overseas — Greeks or Italians, will maintain for a time a certain solidarity with Israel. How deeply and for how long? It may be a matter for regret, in some quarters, even for lamentation, but a realistic prospectus is that as Jews merge into surrounding societies and cultures, the Israel-Diaspora connection will slowly but surely wither away.

NUNN says scenarios 1 through 5 have occurred, 6 and 7 are imaginary, and 8 may be unfolding on the Indian subcontinent.

"The world," he says, "has never before had an empire collapse still containing over 30,000 nuclear weapons, tons of chemical and biological weapons, thousands of missiles, and scientists who know how to make these weapons, but don't know how to feed their families."

Nunn's suggestions include: a joint US-Russian missile warning system (which could lead to missile defense cooperation); joining with Russia to provide missile launch warning to both India and Pakistan; helping Russia solve any Year 2000 computer problem affecting its missiles, nuclear arsenal or nuclear power plants; joint law enforcement efforts targeted at terrorism; and working with Russia to safeguard and eliminate our weapon-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium stockpiles.

We live, Nunn says, in an era of "big challenges and little ideas." He is too polite to say: little leadership, too. However, his insistent voice is a reproach to others who are not doing their duty to describe the world as an increasingly dangerous place.

(Washington Post Writers Group)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ENGLISH NEWS

Sir, — This letter is in no way intended to denigrate the Hebrew language or in any way whatsoever to detract from its great importance in and to the State of Israel and its people.

What prompted this letter is the clearly cavalier attitude — bordering on contempt — shown towards the English-language television news by the powers that be in the Israel Broadcasting Authority, as was amply evidenced by the contents of the article "World Cup bumps 'News in English'" (June 9).

It is painfully obvious that the bright lights of "great ratings" have blinded the management of IBA in regard to what is important for Israel, as against its own personal self-aggrandizement.

It is possible that the acquisition of the rights to the World Cup represents a great coup, (although there are some who might gainsay this) but to either cancel or curtail the English news creates an unacceptable situation which cannot be justified.

It would be interesting to know

where IBA gets its information that "The News in English viewing percentage is only 2-3 percent..."

If the IBA does have an acceptable ratings system, how many persons who are solely English speakers does it utilize? My personal guess is the answer is a big fat zero.

Also, how paternalistic can Mr. Stern get by suggesting that he would be very pleased if "all these immigrants would learn Hebrew?"

HARRY FRIEDGUT

Netanya.

SHAMEFUL BEHAVIOR

Sir, — I read with interest the first of Larry Derner's series about Israeli weddings and how they differ from those in the Diaspora.

I wonder if the writer has considered the effect of average present-day Israeli manners, when the Israeli family attends weddings, bar mitzvas, etc. in North America?

Even though in many cases those attending are but one generation away from family brought up in these places, they do not know how to conduct themselves at such events.

Most of them have no idea to wait

until the first benching before eating, for men to cover their heads at least while the prayers are recited, or even which knife and fork and spoon to use for each course.

The behavior of Israelis in European hotels continues to cause disquiet. Certainly it does, our image no service that their ill-mannered boisterous behavior, constant pilfering from hotel rooms and dining areas and rudeness has caused hoteliers in some resorts to refuse bookings.

Surely it is time that people here were told how the outside world

expects tourists, and indeed businessmen too from Israel to conduct their ways — with decorum, without pushing, showing arrogance. They should see themselves as important ambassadors in this respect. There is a vital necessity for education to start on this subject without delay, in the home, schools, university and the army as well as in the media.

At the moment, Israeli chutzpa is not gaining us either friends or respect.

GLORIA MOUND

Gan Yan-ne.

WRONG STRATEGY

Sir, — OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine's recent assertion that "all of our fighting (in South Lebanon) is primarily defensive" and that "our mission is not to defeat Hizbullah but to defend the northern border" should have sent chills down the spine of anyone with the slightest sense of contemporary history.

This is nothing less than a replay

of US defense secretary Robert McNamara's disastrous "defensive enclaves" strategy that cost America 58,000 lives and an ignominious defeat at the hands of a rag-tag Viet Cong guerrilla force in Vietnam.

If it is stability on its northern border Israel seeks, it can come only with the decisive defeat of Hizbullah along with an explicit

message to its Syrian facilitator that there is a price to be paid for waging proxy war against Israel. As Douglas MacArthur sagely observed, "in war there is no substitute for victory." A strategy by any other name inevitably spells defeat.

WILLIAM MEHLMAN
Americans For A Safe Israel
Jerusalem.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On June 22, 1933, The Palestine Post reported the remand, pending further investigation, of Abraham Stavsky, a Polish national, suspected of murdering Dr. Chaim Arlosoroff.

50 years ago: On June 22, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that an

attempt by IZL to violate the cease-fire by unloading the arms ship, Altuluna, was frustrated by the Israeli Army.

More British soldiers and police left Haifa on the Empress Australia and preparations were in

full swing to evacuate the last British servicemen from the country, by July 1.

25 years ago: On June 22, 1973, The Palestine Post reported that an end seemed to be in sight for the 16-day doctors strike.

Alexander Zivelli

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Yin and Yang

In Asia, America's Foe Is Also Friend

By DAVID E. SANGER

WASHINGTON
S President Clinton crams for his trip to China this week, he must be yearning for those simpler days, not so long ago, when it was much easier to explain to Americans the distinction between friends and foes in Asia.

During the first Clinton Presidential campaign, the Chinese Government was the menace, run by dictators "coddled" by President Bush as they oppressed Tibet, threatened Taiwan, forced abortions and swiped American technology. Then there was Japan, America's biggest military ally and partner in Asia. Sure,

has been an island of stability in Asia — a savvy, responsible player in the global effort to tamp down the economic firestorm that started in Asia a year ago.

And Japan? The view from Washington these days is that it is spreading the bubonic plague of the markets — wild instability — while refusing to take the cure. When Mr. Rubin went to the Oval Office Monday night to tell Mr. Clinton that the United States had to reverse policy, spending billions in the currency markets to prop up the yen, he described it as a desperation effort to save Japan from itself. Inside the Treasury, his aides have a new title for the Japanese Finance Minister, Hikaru Matsunaga: Minister for the Destruction of the World Economy.

This huge shift in perspective is not universal, of course. Many in Congress still view China as a security threat, and last week they kicked into high gear the hearings over whether the Chinese are exploiting liberalized American commercial export laws to improve their spy satellites and nuclear missiles. Not surprisingly, the White House is drafting and re-drafting the remarks Mr. Clinton will deliver in China to make sure he presses the themes of human rights and nonproliferation.

As Clinton visits, China's in and Japan's out.

the Japanese kept out American car parts and computer chips, barriers that Mr. Clinton vowed to smash. But whenever trade quarrels got really nasty, cooler heads in Washington would remind people that it was Japan — market oriented and host to American troops — that Washington could count on in times of crisis.

But no one then could imagine the kind of crisis Asia faces today: economic meltdown. And if you listen closely to the oratory of Washington before the most important foreign trip of Bill Clinton's Presidency, things sound very different. On Tuesday Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin took to the podium of the White House to declare that "China

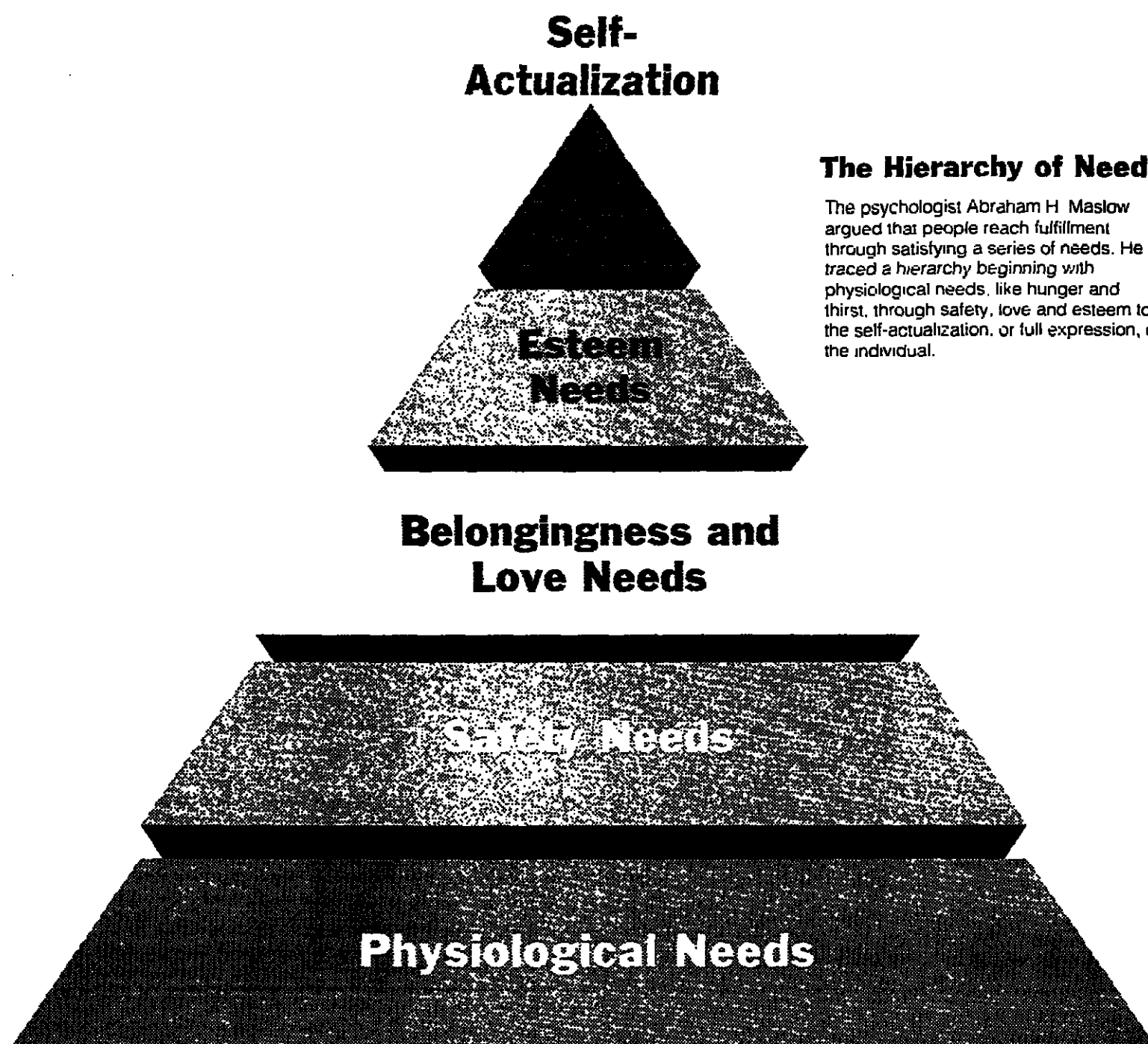
Threat and Ally

In calm times this would be a delicate balancing act. But it is made far more complex by the realities of Asia's economic turmoil. China may remain America's huge military threat, but it has emerged in recent months as an equally huge economic ally — insuring, at least for now, that crisis does not become catastrophe. And Japan, home to the American bases that keep Chinese power in

continued on page 10



Prime Minister Hashimoto of Japan and the President in Britain in May.



The Hierarchy of Needs

The psychologist Abraham H. Maslow argued that people reach fulfillment through satisfying a series of needs. He traced a hierarchy beginning with physiological needs, like hunger and thirst, through safety, love and esteem to the self-actualization, or full expression, of the individual.

Quest for Fire

Looking for Purpose in a Paycheck

By ADAM BRYANT

REMEMBER Abraham Maslow, the humanistic psychologist from Psych 101?

He's the fellow who wrote that people are driven to scale a "hierarchy of needs," starting with food and shelter, then working up through safety, love and esteem to the bell-ringer of all needs: self-actualization. "A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he is to be ultimately at peace with himself," he wrote. "What a man can be, he must be."

That's great for poets and pianists, but what about corporate assistant vice presidents and human resources coordinators? If there's meaning in Mozart, why not also serenity in spreadsheets? These days, people are trying to be all they can and must be at the office, as the workplace has become an increasingly popular but elusive spot to look for purpose and fulfillment in life.

This search for meaning didn't appear out of nowhere. In boom times, prosperous workers can afford to worry about more than the size of their paychecks. Eighties-era greed still has a bad name.

And baby boomers are hitting an age when the children are moving out, giving parents time to think about moving up a notch or two on Maslow's hierarchy. Companies, reaching the limits of downsizing and re-engineering, have decided that one of the few remaining ways to get more out of their workers is to help them find purpose.

Just peruse the business shelves of the local bookstore, which look more and more like the self-help section. "The Artist's Way at Work: Riding the Dragon" (Morrow, 1998) promises "12 weeks to creative freedom" (in week one, dubbed "Emergence," you're supposed to write three pages of whatever every morning). The back cover of "The Search for Meaning in the Workplace" (Abingdon Press, 1996) advertises the book as part of a new genre: "Career/Philosophy."

Such books are becoming the latest versions of "Bartlett's Famous Quotations," often sprinkling in the margins penetrating insights from Aristotle and Confucius, along with Lee Iacocca and Malcolm Forbes.

Golf as Work

The authors and their corporate cheering section blur the line between work and life, speaking in a language less English than corporate-speak. The author Stephen R. Covey, for example, telling readers how to live effective

lives, says they should "be proactive," "synergize" and "think win-win."

Want to take a break from work on the golf course? Forget it. Golf is work. It is for getting ahead in business and schmoozing clients, particularly for women who have long felt excluded from the boy's clubs that rule so many companies ("Breaking the Grass Ceiling" is not just bad wordplay but an actual book).

How about escaping with a travel or adventure book? "Strategy Safari: a Guided Tour through the Wilds of Strategic Management" will be published by the Free Press this fall. Thanks to computers, work and fun are just a trackball click away from each other.

Workers look to chief executives to be moral leaders as much as stewards of the balance sheet and maximizers of profit. An increasingly important part of a C.E.O.'s job is coining some

People are searching for meaning in the workplace, and their employers are happy to help them.

nifty phrase or goal to give employees a broader mission than bringing home a paycheck. John F. Welch Jr., the vaunted chairman of General Electric, has for years preached the virtues of the "boundaryless" workplace where everyone contributes to the entire organization rather than tends to their own narrow turf.

The recent writings of well-known management gurus like Tom Peters seem intended to inspire more than educate, though passages like this one from Mr. Peters's "Circle of Innovation" (Knopf, 1997) may simply leave readers perplexed: "YOU CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT AN ERASER. Forgetting — not learning — is the highest art. Think: ORGANIZED forgetting. STRATEGIC forgetfulness. How? Cherish WASTE ... SILLINESS ... FAILURE. Le.: Ready. FIRE! Aim."

Corporations are also pushing their workers to think about meaning and purpose. In this tight labor market, many companies need to show they care about their employees' lives beyond work. Otherwise, those same employees might jump to competitors who show they care a bit more about such things.

Even law firms are trying to reduce turnover in the ranks by offering associates such beyond-the-bottom-line gestures as paternity leave, according to a recent front-page article in The National Law Journal. And if work hasn't quite become a religion, it's starting to look like one, as hundreds of companies play host to religion classes to accommodate their time-pressed workers.

With global competition, of course, companies also want their workers to be all they can be on the job. After all, employers have re-engineered and downsized, but those changes can do only so much to help a company's performance, especially when the remaining workers are exhausted from doing the work of two former colleagues. So companies hire motivational and inspirational speakers to recharge their employees' batteries.

"They've got an energy problem," said Richard J. Leider, author of "The Power of Purpose: Creating Meaning in Your Life and Work" (Berrett Koehler, 1997) and a frequent speaker and adviser to corporations like American Express, General Motors and Pfizer. "Many companies are wondering, 'How do we attract and renew and bring out the energy and talents in our people?'"

No Escape

Few would argue that there's anything wrong with encouraging people to think about the broader meaning of life. But increasingly the distinction between work and life has blurred. Live to work, or work to live? With pagers, cellular phones, laptops and electronic mail, it's increasingly live to work, anytime, anywhere.

"Given that work is with us on the beach, if we're going to find happiness and self-actualization on the beach, work is going to be a part of it," said David J. Reibstein, a professor at the Wharton Business School who said consulting clients and former students regularly sent him E-mail messages late at night and in the early morning.

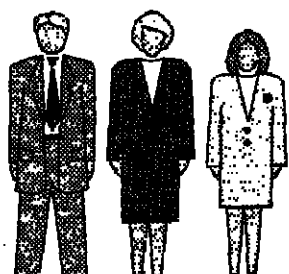
Not only is work gratifying for a lot of people but the office provides a greater sense of relaxation, security and appreciation than home, according to Arlie Russell Hochschild, the author of "The Time Bind: When Work Becomes Home and Home Becomes Work" (Metropolitan, 1997). Work is also one of the few addictions in society that is not only accepted but rewarded.

"There is no substitute for hard work," Thomas Edison wrote in 1932. The problem these days is that for a lot of people, Edison's words are literally true.

Presidential Swarm
Nixon took 300
to China. Clinton
is taking 1,000.

By John M. Broder

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Telephone Dreams
Africans long for
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Taxes vs. Children
The politics of
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Lake Caspian Sea
Pouring
trouble on
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The Nation

Politics of Tobacco: Taxes vs. Kids

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM

WASHINGTON
REPUBLICANS can usually win when they can position themselves as the guardians of low taxes and small government.

By the same token, Democrats have the advantage when they can frame an issue as one involving the protection of children.

The tobacco bill, the most ambitious measure before Congress this year, lay across that political fault line. Here is what was said on the final day of debate in the Senate on Wednesday.

"This is a massive tax on low-income Americans, and it is used to proliferate the bureaucracy of this Government," declared one of the bill's principal Republican opponents, Senator John Ashcroft of Missouri.

Senator Kent Conrad of North Dakota, who represents the Democratic leadership on tobacco matters, put the question this way: "Do we protect our children's lives, or do we protect the profits of the tobacco industry?"

In the end, the bill was shelved when Democrats fell three votes short of the 60 needed to cut off debate and bring the measure to a final vote. The Republicans won in part because the tobacco companies mounted a mammoth advertising campaign, said to have cost \$40 million in the last two months, to persuade the public that the main issue was a tax increase. This gave the Republicans the air cover they needed to vote against the legislation, which most of them wanted to do in the first place.

But the bill failed for another reason. Many Democrats allowed their focus to shift. Punishing the tobacco companies became as important as protecting children from smoking. That diluted their strongest position and gave added weight to the Republicans' anti-tax stance.

To understand this, you have to think back a year ago, when the major tobacco companies signed a trail-blazing agreement with state attorneys general and class-action lawyers.

Walkout

Under the settlement, the cigarette makers agreed to pay \$385.5 billion over 25 years to finance health research and anti-smoking programs. They also agreed to restrain advertising and pay annual penalties if the rate of teen-age smoking did not fall to specified levels. In exchange, lawsuits by the states would have been dropped, class-action suits on behalf of people with smoking-related illnesses would have been prohibited and no punitive damages would have been allowed in suits filed by individuals.

The settlement required Congressional approval.



Anti-tobacco protesters outside the Capitol last week.

In April, the Senate Commerce Committee voted to drive up the price of cigarettes by \$1.10 a pack, raising the 25-year cost to over \$500 billion. The companies walked out. They said the cost was too high and began their campaign to defeat the legislation on the ground that it would amount to a monstrous tax increase.

Maybe the high price really was the reason for the tobacco executives' change of heart. But many people who know the industry well believe that the main reason they switched and began to fight was that it became apparent that Congress would not give them the protections they wanted.

The companies could have afforded the added money, said Mary Aronson, who advises institutional investors on legal trends and who has followed the tobacco industry closely for years. "What they want more than anything else is peace in the courtroom," she said.

A lobbyist who works full time for anti-smoking legislation said it was reasonable to argue, as the leading public health authorities did, that the tobacco companies had acted so reprehensibly over so many years that they did not deserve

legal protection. What cannot be argued, continued the lobbyist, who insisted that his name not be used lest his words be used against him in future negotiations, is that stripping away protection has anything to do with stopping teen-agers from smoking.

Senator Conrad took issue with the notion that it would have been better politics to give the tobacco companies immunity from most lawsuits so that a strong measure could have been passed to reduce teen-age smoking. "Where we made our mistake is in not countering their tax argument forcefully enough and not

The tobacco bill lay across a political fault line.

talking about the taxes imposed on all Americans because of this industry," he said in an interview.

But Mark Mellman, a Democratic pollster, said "shifting the focus" did create a problem. "Democrats know we're on weak ground when it comes to taxes," he said. "But Democrats win hands down on children's issues and health and safety issues."

Of course, that point has not been lost on President Clinton, who based his 1996 re-election campaign on such issues as mandatory leave for new parents, protection of children from sex and violence on television and the Internet, uniforms for schoolchildren, guaranteed health insurance for all children and more money for education and child care.

When the tobacco bill came up, the President said he was not enthusiastic about giving legal protection to the cigarette companies but that it should not be a "deal breaker" if immunity from lawsuits was needed to get a bill that would discourage teen-agers from smoking.

Bread and Butter

Republicans have tried with less success to have children's issues of their own. "Both parties have their bread-and-butter issues," said Keith Appell, a Republican political consultant. "For Democrats, it may be children. Taxes are the bread-and-butter issue of Republicans."

Mr. Mellman said that based on his polling and focus groups, he had no doubt that the issue of children smoking would help Democrats in the Congressional elections this fall.

Mr. Appell and his partner, Greg Mueller, disagree. They sent a memorandum to clients last week about how in blocking the tobacco legislation, Republicans had stopped a tax increase. The consultants concluded: "This sounds like a pretty darn good 30-second spot to us."

In Asia, U.S. Foe Is Also Friend

continued from page 9

check, has become an economic drunk driver. Its steps to deregulate the economy, reform its banks and cut taxes are widely viewed as inadequate, and no one even talks anymore about turning Japan into an engine of Asian recovery.

"Whether you run a country or a company, you better figure out how to live without Japan for a while," says John S. Wadsworth Jr., chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia.

Seizing a Moment

Naturally the Chinese see this as an opportunity. In return for a pledge to hold their currency stable — which President Clinton is expected to seek this week, and which is in China's interest anyway — they want acknowledgment of China as the new economic leader of Asia. That's a stretch (China's economy is still a fifth the size of Japan's) but nothing makes the Chinese happier than when American officials repeat Mr. Rubin's mantra that "sometime in the next century China will be the world's largest economy." After all, a decade ago the Japanese thought that trophy would belong to them.

China's constant reminders of American-Chinese cooperation in World War II, fighting side-by-side against you-know-who, are part of a campaign to portray China as Asia's leader and America's indispensable partner. It's no secret why the Chinese insisted that Mr. Clinton only visit China on this trip: They wanted the imagery of Air Force One flying right past Japan. (To make amends, Japan's Prime Minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, has been invited to visit Washington in July.)

"The stars are lined up for them, because Japan is in such disfavor around the world," said Jeffrey Garten, the dean of the Yale School of Management. "They know that we have no one else to turn to for managing the economic crisis."

Mr. Garten suspects the Chinese have a more specific agenda in mind. They want to swap continued cooperation for America's commitment to get them into the World Trade Organization and a pledge to draw back American support for Taiwan. The Chinese have made no secret of their unhappiness with a revision of the security treaty between Japan and the United States last year, which they viewed as part of a broader effort to contain Chinese military power.

Time Bomb

It's never been easy for the United States to maintain an equilibrium in its relations with Japan and China. One has always been in vogue, the other out. But rarely have things been this complicated, when American security interests and American economic interests have pulled in different directions.

And add to that another wrinkle. The Clinton Administration is praising China's economic management today in part to encourage it to defuse an economic time bomb down the road: China itself.

"China today has the characteristics of every Asian country that was hit by the crisis — but worse," says Michael Walton, the director of poverty reduction at the World Bank.

Take a look at some numbers you are not likely to hear President Clinton rattle off in the next two weeks. Somewhere between 25 and 30 percent of all the loans on the books of Chinese banks are not being paid back and probably never will be. That means there is now at least \$270 billion in bad debt in China (compared with \$600 billion in much richer Japan). Moody's Investor Services warned on Friday that China's big state banks are "in reality heavily insolvent."

But what about those impressive skyscrapers in Shanghai that Mr. Clinton will roar past in his motorcade on the way to a roundtable with cell-phone-toting Chinese entrepreneurs? Vast numbers of them are sitting empty. And while the entrepreneurs represent China's future, up in the industrial northeast unemployment rates are running near 30 percent. The numbers are getting worse as Zhu Rongji, China's new Prime Minister, shuts down vast steel plants and mines that Mao opened 40 years ago with a bunch of nifty slogans but no business plan.

The Wall

So what has protected China from the economic calamity that has hit its neighbors? A second Great Wall: its currency, which is not freely convertible. That means the speculators of the world can't move money freely in and out of China. Sealed off from the markets, China has sidestepped George Soros and his friends, pegging its currency to a fixed exchange rate with the dollar. (It helps that the Chinese have built up a war chest of \$150 billion in foreign reserves.)

But there are ways for the world to get around the wall. As the dollar has soared, China's exports — the fuel of its economic growth — have become far more expensive overseas. Suddenly the countries whose currencies have dropped so dramatically — Korea, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia — are selling goods more cheaply and cutting into China's market share. And that is reducing China's growth rate at the moment it desperately needs money to finance its perilous transition to a market economy.

So it is no surprise that when the Japanese yen fell to scary new lows last week, the Chinese began to scream. Japan's economy is so big that it could force another round of huge currency devaluations — a second, far more fearsome phase of the Asia crisis. Chinese leaders began threatening to devalue their own currency. China's nervousness is one reason Mr. Rubin intervened in the markets to bail out the yen.

But the Treasury Secretary made no secret of the fact that he was forced to select among bad choices. He wanted to force Japan to make structural changes before he helped the yen — massive deregulation, tax cuts, shutting down the sickest banks. The Chinese, he notes, have addressed their problems far more directly than Japan has.

What he got last week was a new commitment from Japan — one that may or may not be worth any more than previous commitments. If it isn't, then he has only bought a little time. And sooner or later, Japan's troubles could become China's — and the world's.

On the Other Hand...

WASHINGTON
SHOULD China benefit from American technology? The United States is pulled both ways. Few embody the tug of war better than Representative Dana Rohrabacher, a conservative Republican from a California district with high-technology industry. Lately, in criticizing transfers to China approved by the Clinton Administration, he seems caught in the contradictions of American policy. Look at what he said four years ago, and what he says now.

ERIC SCHMITT

At a September 1994 House hearing on space, Mr. Rohrabacher favored looser restrictions:

If the No. 1 threat to the United States today seems to me not coming from a military threat but instead an economic threat to our well-being, don't these restrictions that we are talking about... put us at a disadvantage in terms of this major threat to our well-being in terms of the international economic competition in the area of high technology? Maybe you could tell me specifically what specific damage to our national security would be caused if we would just transfer all communications satellites from the munitions list to a commercial dual-use list...

I would hope that our industrial

leaders who are making these decisions do not fall back to the position that they just want to protect the use of old technologies from the new competitive threats that are coming from China and the former Soviet Union...

We are very concerned that in this new era that we are entering, post cold-war era, era of global competition, we can't have our top businessmen hampered by bureaucratic roadblocks.

But he was for tightening them last month as he voted to ban the export of American satellites to be launched on Chinese rockets:

How is it that the Communist Chinese have improved their missile capability? You better sit down, Mr. and Mrs. America, because it appears that several large American high-tech corporations, in collusion with the Clinton Administration, provided technology to the Communist Chinese that perfected their nuclear weapons delivery systems...

It takes the wind right out of your lungs, does it not, just to think about it? If this is true, it is the worst technological betrayal of the American people since the Rosenbergs. This is nothing less than a catastrophe for the security of our nation and the safety of our people...



Mr. Rohrabacher.

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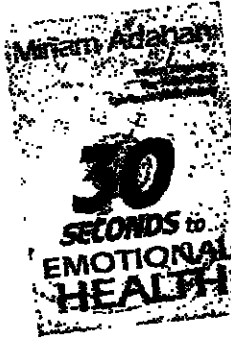
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The World

In the Land of a Billion, a Fitting Presidential Retinue

By JOHN M. BRODER

THIS is no ordinary circus. The White House is flying in at least two road runners, the sinister-looking black secure communications vans that accompany a Presidential motorcade. And, as always, Mr. Clinton will be tailed by Kris Engskov, his personal aide and briefcase carrier.

All this for a summit meeting in Beijing and postcard visits to four other cities that even the White House says are expected to yield few concrete results.

Chinese officials and American diplomats in China are appalled and amused. One bewildered senior American in Beijing told a visitor that he was told to expect 1,200 people when Mr. Clinton arrives next Thursday. That may not be far off. White House advance people have rented 350 cars in Shanghai alone.

Even by comparison to China trips by previous Presidents, the size of the royal court is astonishing.

When Richard Nixon made his historic journey to Beijing in February 1972, he was accompanied by 300 people. The official party numbered 34, and only 87 members of the press were allowed to cover the visit. The White House and the American media wanted to send at least twice as many people, while the Chinese demanded a much smaller number. Weeks of bargaining resulted in 300 eventually making the trip.

"By today's standards, it was a modest group, but

the Chinese were shocked by the huge horde of people coming, both White House staff and the numbers of press we requested," said Winston Lord, who was then an aide to Mr. Nixon's national security adviser, Henry A. Kissinger, and later was ambassador to China.

Less News, More Newsmen

The shock to the Chinese had worn off a bit when Gerald Ford visited Beijing in December 1975. Records from the Ford library indicate that the contingent had grown to about 450 people, including 170 American journalists. The trip was less newsworthy than Mr. Nixon's, but in those years, for most American news organizations, it was a rare opportunity to get into China at all.

By the time of Ronald Reagan's visit to Beijing, Xian and Shanghai in April 1984, the traveling party had grown to nearly 600 people, including a huge increase in the Hollywood stage managers brought into the White House to assure photogenic coverage of the Gipper. The press corps had grown to 260.

President Bush's 40-hour visit to Beijing in February 1989 was an anomaly, a hastily arranged trip essentially tacked onto his journey to Japan for the funeral of Emperor Hirohito. Records from the Bush library indicate the traveling party was about 100 people smaller than Mr. Reagan's entourage.

John Podesta, the White House deputy chief of staff coordinating the Clinton visit, said he has had to say no to scores of officials who wanted to make the passage, and that a decision was made early on not to invite business executives. Mr. Clinton is under fire for accepting campaign contributions funneled through a Chinese military official and for approving the sale of a satellite by a company under investigation for leaking sensitive technology to Beijing. Thus it was an easy call to keep C.E.O.'s off Air Force One. But even without a large contingent of special pleaders, the list of travelers just kept growing, Mr. Podesta said.

Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright will fly in

with the President. Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin is going, as are Charlene Barshefsky, the United States Trade Representative; Commerce Secretary William M. Daley, and Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman.

Counting deputies, aides and support people, the official party numbers 100, Mr. Podesta said, and "another 500-600 will float in and out around this trip."

"We've never had a trip quite this large," he said.

The White House said it could not provide an exact count because many officials and support people are traveling separately and meeting the President in China. White House officials also say it is impossible to calculate in advance the overall cost of the trip because the expenses are paid by numerous Government agencies and because many of the bills arrive for months after the trip has ended. But for a sense of scale, news organizations have been advised that each accredited reporter can expect to pay \$15,000.

The Secret Service, citing security reasons, will provide no figures on the numbers of agents assigned to the trip. But their numbers include not only the plainclothes agents who stay close to the President, but also sharpshooters and counter-assault squads, officers to secure public sites and operate metal detectors and technicians to run a secure communications network.

But why so many others? The usual Clinton trip, after all, involves a retinue of 500 or 600.

Michael D. McCurry, the White House spokesman, said the size of this court reflects the importance of the relationship with China, as well as a desire by senior Government officers to be present at a historic event. He attributed the growth in the size of the press contingent to the demands of 24-hour-a-day news coverage.

He also explained why no one will provide firm figures on the size of the entourage. "It's hard to get people to talk about any of this stuff because it always seems so extravagant," Mr. McCurry said, "especially when you see other leaders with one or two cars in their motorcades. On the other hand, they're not leading the United States of America."

No Furniture, Please

"We're moving the White House to China," one senior White House advance agent said.

Well, almost.

"Rumors that he is bringing all his own furniture from the United States aren't true at all," said Zhang Tianping, the public relations manager at the Diaoyutai State Guest House, where President Clinton will stay in Beijing, according to Agence France-Presse.





Nixon shocked China by traveling with 300. Against Clinton, he looks like a piker.

Mr. Clinton Goes to Beijing

When President Clinton visits China next week, he will travel like a medieval king accompanied by his court. Here is an estimated breakdown of his retinue of more than 1,000 people.

 President Clinton, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton	 Secretaries of State, Commerce, Treasury, Agriculture, U.S. Trade Representative	 Members of Congress	 Chief of Staff, deputy Press secretary, deputy
 Political aides, economic advisers	 70 SENIOR AIDES AND ADVISERS Senior staff from the White House and cabinet deputies.	 150 SUPPORT STAFF Includes White House press aides, travel aides, advance staff, translators, secretaries, speechwriters, lower-level aides from all agencies.	 150 MILITARY Includes communications support, cable, transportation, baggage personnel and drivers.
 150 SECURITY PERSONNEL Estimated 100-200 agents from the Secret Service and other departments.	 200 NEWS MEDIA PERSONNEL An additional 175 have been accredited, but will make their own way to China rather than travel with the official party.	 ARMORED LIMOUSINES FOR OFFICIAL DELEGATION About 10 limousines will accompany the official delegation. Security will also fly in several Chevrolet Suburban trucks and the entire party will rent 350 cars in Shanghai.	

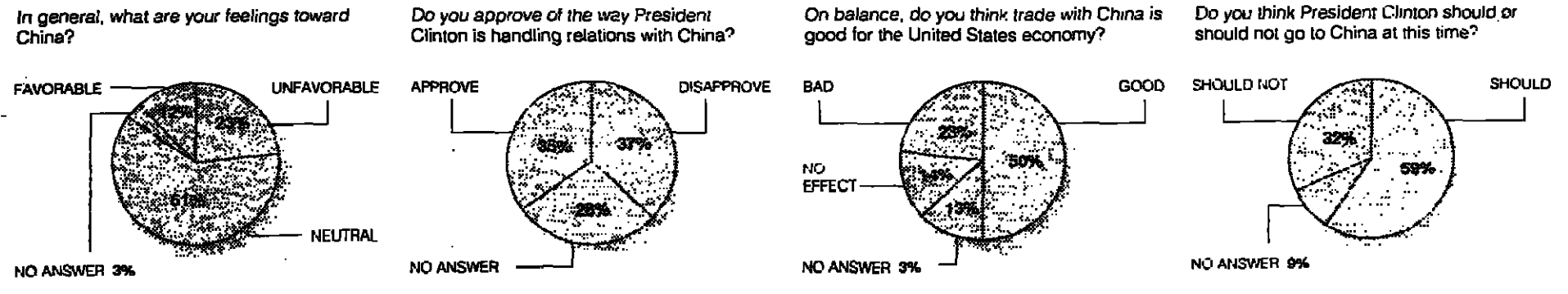
The Four Previous Visits

 Nixon DATES Feb. 21-28, 1972. ITINERARY Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou. RETINUE 300 total, including 34 in official delegation and 87 members of news media.	 Ford DATES Dec. 1-5, 1975. ITINERARY Beijing. RETINUE 450 total, including 37 in official delegation and 170 members of news media.	 Reagan DATES April 26-May 1, 1984. ITINERARY Beijing, Xian, Shanghai. RETINUE 600 total, including 100 in official delegation and 260 members of news media.	 Bush DATES Feb. 25-27, 1989. ITINERARY Beijing. RETINUE About 500 total, including 34 in official delegation and 200 members of news media.
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Attitudes Toward China

In general, Americans do not have strong feelings for or against China, and their opinion is split on the way President Clinton is handling relations with the Communist giant, according to a new poll. But they believe trade with China is good for the American economy and approve of the President's scheduled visit.

Based on a nationwide New York Times/CBS News poll conducted by June 7 to 9 by telephone with 1,126 adults.



Peter C. T. Elsworth/The New York Times

The World

It's a Sea! It's a Lake! No. It's a Pool of Oil.

By ELAINE SCIOLO

HALFWAY around the world, where the Caucasus meets the Middle East, a rush is on to exploit what could prove to be the world's richest oil bonanza. The stakes are so high that otherwise sane people are fighting each other for the chance to risk huge investments in a part of the world plagued by ethnic rivalries, civil wars, corrupt bureaucracies, faltering economies and big egos.

And that's not all. Some of these same people have also become intensely interested in solving a curious question: Is the Caspian really a sea or just a lake?

If it weren't for oil and the breakup of the Soviet Union, that's the kind of question that might occupy scholars in some musty corner of some obscure university. But today, people need to know, and here's why:

The Caspian is a California-size body of salt water — the world's largest landlocked body of water — that

For the five nations on the Caspian, a weird linguistic quarrel has big-money consequences.

may sit on as much as 200 billion barrels of oil, which would be 16 percent of the Earth's potential oil reserves. Even at today's low prices, that could add up to \$3 trillion in oil.

If it is a lake, one set of rules about access to the oil would apply, with the nations that border it controlling the undersea wealth out to a few miles from their shores; the remainder in the middle — like the hole in a donut — would be treated as an international seabed. The oil in the middle could be exploited, sold and transported only if all five countries agreed on how to do it and on how to divide up the profits.

If the Caspian is considered a sea, however, the entire bed would be sliced into pieces, like a pie.

And since five nations now border the Caspian, and a lot of undiscovered reserves may lie in the large donut hole, the question is anything but academic.

The Caspian Sea is what it has been called for a long time, and under the international Convention on the Law of the Sea, it meets most of the qualifications.

On the other hand, the Soviet Union and Iran long ago found it convenient to treat the Caspian differently. Under their 1921 Treaty of Friendship, they made it a freely navigated lake whose resources — caviar-filled sturgeon mostly — were shared by the two bordering countries.

That worked well enough in the old days. But following the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Caspian suddenly became the property of the five countries that border it: Russia on the north, Iran on the south, Kazakhstan and tiny Turkmenistan on the east and Azerbaijan on the west. What they want to exploit isn't free-roaming like the fish.

So the question underlying the lake-sea dispute is clear-cut: Who owns the oil under the sea and who controls the pipeline route by which it gets to market?

For Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, which have the biggest known fields under their waters, the Caspian is a sea that would give them maximum control over their own slices.

Until recently, Russia and Iran, which have less oil and gas off their own shores, insisted that concern for the environment required joint sovereignty over the Caspian and its resources, a ludicrous position since Russia is by far the Caspian's largest polluter. Russia also argued that because the economies of the former Soviet republics were developed with Russian financial support, it deserved more. Russia must have "access to the resources of the Commonwealth of Independent States," Yuri Shafrenik, who was then Energy Minister, said in 1994. "We, by virtue of our labor, mind, energy have created all this."

But last April, Russia began to modify its position after discovering more oil in its sector. President Boris N. Yeltsin of Russia and President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan agreed in principle — but failed to sign an agreement — to divide the seabed and the oil under it into national sectors.

There was a catch. Mr. Yeltsin also said that the waters above the seabed would remain international. That means that all five countries would enjoy common use of the sea itself, with freedom of navigation, fishing rights and environmental protections.

Clever move. Russia, which still can't quite accept the fact that it has to make concessions to three former Soviet republics, is opposed to a plan for an undersea pipeline that would bypass Russia. But oil is no good unless it can be moved to market, so Russia's compromise would give it veto power over any pipeline plan on environmental grounds.

Even if Mr. Yeltsin signs an agreement with Kazakhstan to divide the Caspian, as he has said he will do next month, will Russia's Parliament go along? And even if the Russian view prevails, does that mean a navigational free-for-all in the Caspian?

"Freedom of navigation sounds good, but does that mean that any country can move its navy around at will even if it seems provocative to its neighbors?" asked Toby Gati, who was the Russia adviser on the National Security Council during President Clinton's first term. "What happens if one country's platform begins to leak oil? Can the others say, 'Get it out of here?'"

With Russia's new position, Iran becomes the odd man out, insisting that the Caspian cannot be divided into national sectors and that the oil belongs to all.

The only way Iran will agree is if the Caspian is sectioned into "equal shares," Iran's Foreign Minister, Kamal Kharrazi, said last month. That means Iran wants to control 20 percent of the seabed; the normal division according to international law would give Iran less than 10 percent.

American Plot

Dr. Kharrazi also rejected the Russian idea of dividing the seabed one way and the waters another. "If there is going to be a division accepted by different countries, I'm sure that one legal regime has to be applied to the seabed as well as the waters of the Caspian Sea," he said.

Iran has also declared that any pipeline built under the Caspian would be a disaster to sturgeon and migrating birds. But its motive may be to delay the building of any undersea pipeline, in hopes that the United States will drop its opposition to a much shorter, cheaper pipeline that would go across Iran.

Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, re-



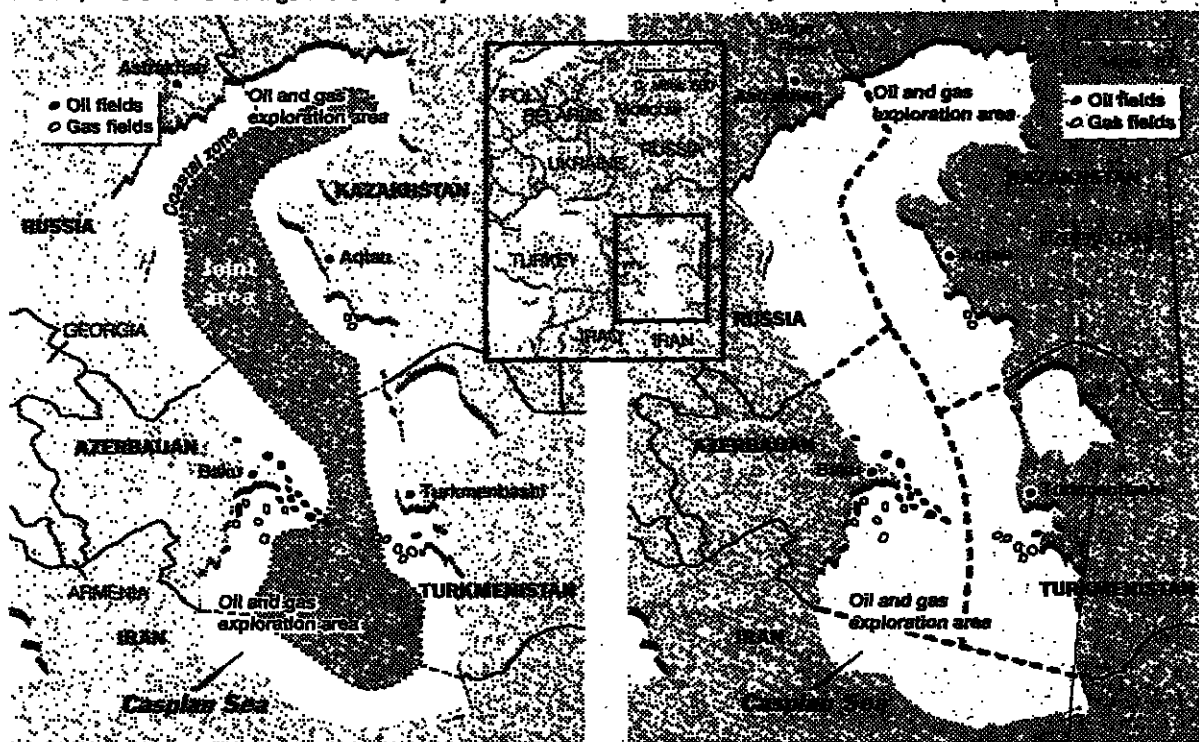
An oilman's nirvana on the Caspian Sea outside Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan.

The Geography of Greed

Until 1991, the resources of the Caspian were shared by the Soviet Union and Iran. But since the Soviet breakup, three additional nations — Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan — have emerged as competitors for the vast oil reserves believed to lie under the water. Since development rights would differ if the Caspian were considered a lake rather than a sea, the competitors differ on how to define it. Here is the difference.

LAKE CASPIAN Iran argues most strongly for this definition, which gives all countries joint control in the middle, where new oil and gas reserves may be found.

THE CASPIAN SEA Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan argue for this definition, which would divide the entire body of water into national sectors.



Source: P.W. Energy Intelligence Group.

gards the whole debate as part of an American-inspired plot to impose a military presence on Iran's northern border — the Caspian — just as it did on Iran's southern border, the Persian Gulf. "The U.S. oil companies' presence in the Caspian Sea is aimed at paving the ground for the U.S. military presence in this sensitive oil-rich region," he said recently.

Even the World Bank is confused. Recently, the bank's International Finance Corporation indicated that Azerbaijan could get financing for offshore development without a resolution of the lake-sea issue, a decision that has set off a legal battle inside the bank.

The American position is that it will accept any decision that will avoid a pipeline through Iran.

And as some participants in this debate cite legalities and environmental concerns, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan are busy developing their offshore deposits, signing multi-billion-dollar contracts with international firms.

"While the lawyers are dithering, the investors are planting their flags," said S. Frederick Starr, an expert on Central Asia who writes extensively about the Caspian. "It's like land-staking in the American West. You get your wagon out there as soon as possible."

Sorry, You Can't Reach There From Here

In Africa, Dreaming of a Wired World

By DONALD G. McNEIL Jr.

AFTER relatively rich South Africa, which African country has the highest percentage of cellular phones among telephone users? Ghana? The Ivory Coast? Kenya? Nigeria?

None of the above. The correct answer is the desperately poor, badly shot-up Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the regular telephone system — where it exists at all — is so decrepit that cellular is often the only option.

Cheerleading for the dream of an African renaissance is all the rage these days on the continent, but without better telecommunications it will be as hard to spread wealth and democracy as it would have been for Florence and Chartres to spread Renaissance culture without the old Roman roads.

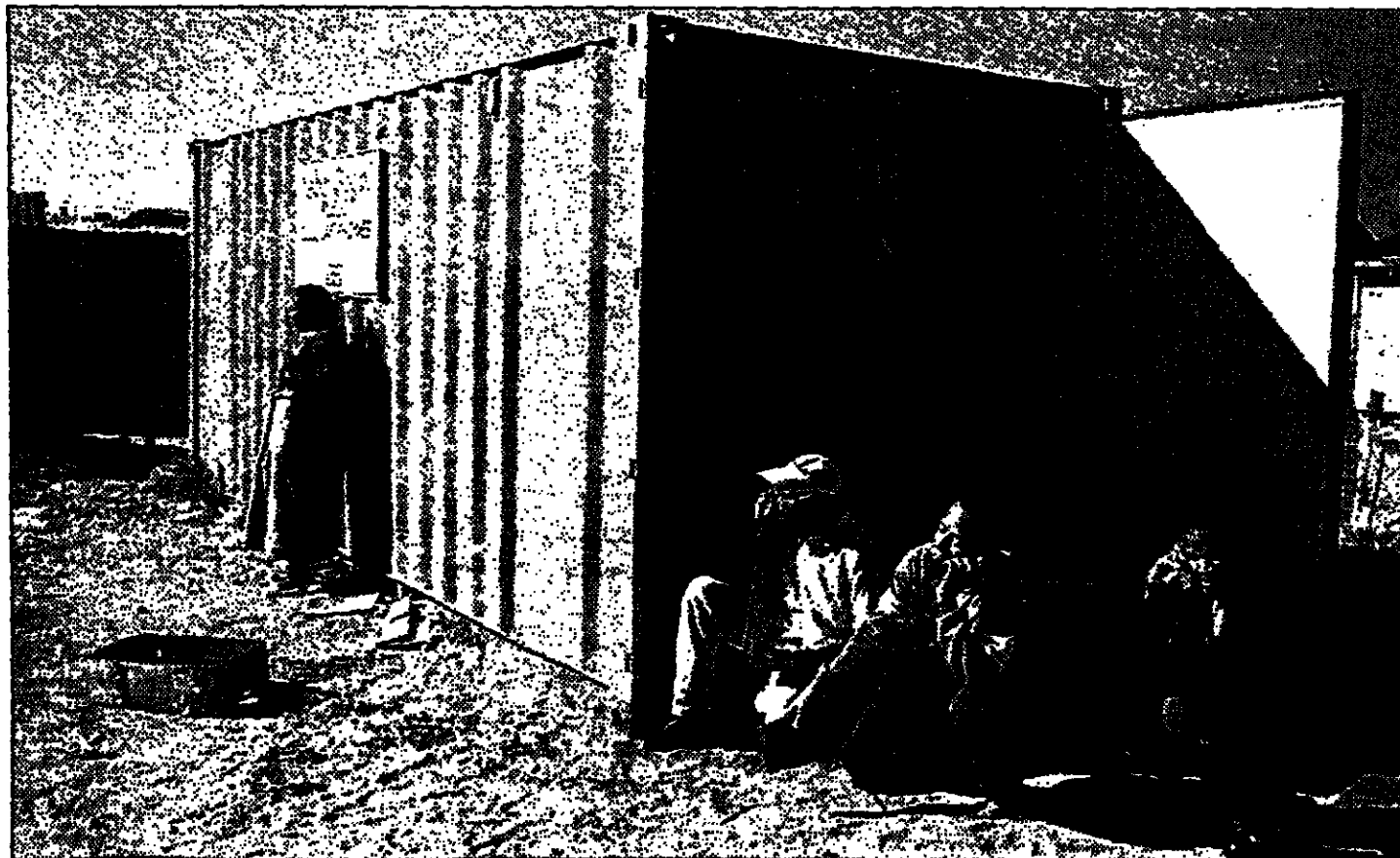
Only about 1 in 300 people in sub-Saharan Africa has a phone, making the financial opportunities huge. Most companies marketing heavily to rural Africa are pushing low-technology goods like beer, cigarettes, detergent and fertilizer. But impoverished Africans also need telephones to relay family news and money, just as many poor New Yorkers do when they patronize storefront phone shops.

For example, failing to come home for a funeral is a grave social offense in Africa. When a village doesn't have a phone, someone must go to the city simply to tell others that a villager has died.

A Phone in Every Village

"Africans spend a huge proportion of their meager incomes going places they could reach by phone," said Piers Letcher, a spokesman for the International Telecommunication Union, a Geneva-based United Nations affiliate. "People who need food will pay for telecommunications — they're transferring money from their transportation budgets."

Contrary to common wisdom, rural telephones can make money if the goal is one phone in every village, not one in each hut. Bakary K. Njie, managing director of the national telephone company of tiny Gambia,



Only about 1 in 300 Africans has a telephone, so centers like this one in South Africa are vital links to the outside world.

took on the risk of laying a 250-mile fiber optic cable through the hinterland and attached 300 privately owned 24-hour phone centers. Villagers walked miles to line up outside the centers, which soon paid for the costly cable installation.

The continent's obstacles are huge, however, and politics is a bigger one than poverty, malaria, or the snows of Kilimanjaro. Hard as it is to wire the one billion people in China, at least they all live in one country — Africa's 740 million people live in 55. Those African nations that don't have overwhelming problems like civil war have simpler ones, like bureaucratic sloth and dishonesty.

Each country has different telecommunications laws — or none at all. And many governments earn a big chunk of their budgets through their doddering telephone monopolies. The money comes from tourists and executives in hotels that gouge so deeply that the phone bill often tops the room bill, and from the fees paid by American and European carriers for incoming calls connected through the monopolies.

Red Tape

There are also absurd inefficiencies. For example, in a colonial legacy, a call from

South Africa to next-door Mozambique was until recently routed through both London and Lisbon. Even when a country wants to improve its phone service, pythons of red tape can encircle the effort.

Suspicion of complex technology is high. Bashir Ahmad el-Rufai, president of Inter-cellular Nigeria, said he had to approach 20 Nigerian banks to raise a mere \$10 million for his network. "One banker asked us to line up a buyer for my telecom equipment if it didn't work — as if it was used furniture I could get rid of," he said. Approaching foreign bankers was pointless, he added, because they are afraid of Nigerian corruption.

Later this year, the ultimate in phone technology is set to roll out: hand-held phones able to call from anywhere on the planet to anywhere else, thanks to new networks of dozens of low-orbit satellites. It's expensive but ideal for Africa's vast untamed spaces.

Getting bureaucrats in 55 countries to sign licenses is a nightmare, though. "A civil servant's job is fairly tedious in Africa," said John A. Richardson, head of Iridium Africa, which has a satellite network. "Seeing us means writing a position paper for the minister, and so on. Why do that if you can get away with doing nothing?"

On the plus side, corruption seems to be abating. Mr. Richardson said he had been steered toward signing on local partners related to government officials, but had "never personally bumped into an overt or covert request for a bribe."

A New Frontier

Pekka Tarjanne, secretary general of the International Telecommunication Union, is an optimist for three reasons: technology is rapidly becoming cheaper, the fading of socialism means privatization is no longer a dirty word and minister of telecommunications is now an important post in many countries. In 36 countries, the post offices no longer run the national phone systems. In 19, there are competing cellular phone companies.

Even pie-in-the-sky ideas seem not so crazy these days. Joseph Olupaku, a Nigerian-American entrepreneur, attends conferences trying to rustle up funding for his dream company, Telecom Africa. His goals are to reverse the African diaspora, create pan-African affirmative action and make everyone involved rich. His vision is to recruit engineers around the world to come back to Africa to design and produce telecommunications equipment here.

Hopelessly romantic? Maybe not. Iridium is one of six new satellite companies competing to serve Africa, and one way they can make friends is to make their equipment here.

As Mr. Letcher of the International Telecommunication Union said, "If you can create 10,000 jobs in Africa, you'll land the deal."

ECONOMY

Premier Parks Is Becoming the New Monster of the Midway

By EDWIN McDOWELL

AS Frontier City rose near here alongside legendary Route 66 in 1958, not even its owners could have harbored illusions that the 60-acre amusement park would ever rival the talk of the industry, the three-year-old Disneyland. Indeed, by the time a local real estate development company bought a controlling stake in 1982, the park was so rundown that the new owner planned to demolish it and put up an office and retail complex instead.

Today, most of Route 66 is only a memory, replaced by Interstate 35. Yet Frontier City still stands, spruced up and profitable.

For when Frontier escaped the wrecking ball — courtesy of plummeting oil prices, which sent Oklahoma's economy into a tailspin — the owner had little choice but to operate the park itself. And in the years since, that potentially disastrous investment has turned into a gusher: its owner, Premier Parks Inc., is now the second-biggest theme park operator in the world, behind only the Walt Disney Company itself.

Like the cars of a roller coaster inching up the first big rise, the company that would eventually become

Premier took its time getting ready to expand, spending more than a decade to collect a dozen or so small parks around the country. And then this year, seemingly from out of nowhere, Premier shifted into high gear.

In February, it stunned the industry by agreeing to pay nearly \$1 billion in cash for the dozen Six Flags parks owned by Time Warner Entertainment and an investor group led by Boston Ventures. A month later, it went international, buying a 49.9 percent stake in six parks in Europe. And it is not done yet.

"Clearly, there are opportunities for more acquisitions," said Kieran Burke, Premier's understated 41-year-old chairman and chief executive.

Disney is hardly in danger of losing its top spot any time soon. The 31 parks now in Premier's stable had about 38 million admissions last year, much less than half the estimated 86 million that Disney packed into its 6 parks. (Disney's Animal Kingdom in Florida, its seventh park, opened in April.)

And Disney and Premier aren't really even direct competitors. Premier operates regional parks, mostly for day trippers, many of whom become season ticket holders and drop

in frequently during the summer, if only for a few hours at a time. Disney runs "destination parks," which have much higher ticket prices and serve as magnets for its large resorts. Moreover, while Disney operates its five parks in the United States year-round, all but one of Premier's parks are seasonal.

Indeed, Premier executives insist that they don't have Mickey on the mind.

"We never viewed our long-term goals or performance as competition with Disney," said Mr. Burke, a Harvard-trained lawyer.

Yet at least one other comparison is quite telling. "While Disney remains the theme park industry leader, with the theme parks their best-performing business over the past year, Premier is growing faster than the entire Disney company," said Larry C. Petrella, an analyst with Lehman Brothers.

Investors have sent the company's stock up 75 percent since the Six Flags deal was announced. The stock, which closed on Friday at \$59.625, has more than tripled since Premier went public on June 4, 1996, a reflection of the company's sizzling financial performance.

For now, the question is whether Premier's management is up to the task it has set for itself. The purchase of Six Flags, after all, is a bit like a minor league team buying the New York Yankees.

Six Flags' 1997 revenues were \$708.7 million, more than three times Premier's \$193.9 million. Six Flags drew about 27 million visitors last year, with four of its parks, including Great Adventure in Jackson, N.J., accounting for more than 3 million each. By contrast, Premier's total attendance was less than 11 million, and only one of its parks, Elitch Gardens in Denver, reached even 1.5 million.

But analysts regard Mr. Burke and his team as better theme park operators than were Time Warner's managers. Ned P. Zachar, senior managing director of Nationsbank Montgomery Securities, said he expected Premier to consolidate operations and improve margins. How hands-on is Premier management? Mr. Burke and other senior executives get hourly updates by computer of attendance figures at each park.

FOR his part, Mr. Burke thinks it's time for a breather. "Over the next 12 months," he said, "we'll be focused largely on integrating our newest parks."

The company is making a tender offer for the remaining interest in the six European parks it operates with Walibi S.A. It paid Walibi \$43 million for its 49.9 percent stake in March. And tomorrow, it plans to add the Six Flags name to its Kentucky Kingdom park in Louisville, the first of a number of proposed name changes.

As part of the Six Flags deal, Premier also obtained the exclusive right for 55 years to use Warner Brothers characters like Bugs Bunny and Tweety Bird, in its American and Canadian parks.

Premier derived 51.2 percent of its revenue last year from the sale of food, merchandise, games and rides, or about \$8.50 a person. But the average expenditure at Six Flags is nearly \$10 higher, said Mr. Petrella of Lehman.

Moreover, a recent report by Nationsbank Montgomery estimated that merchandise sales averaged only about \$1 per person at Premier but about \$5 at Six Flags. So every additional dollar per person that Premier can generate from the cartoon characters, the report said, "could translate into incremental revenue of \$12 million to \$13 million."

Given Premier's high-speed financial ride, it would be fitting to report that Mr. Burke went into the amusement park business because he was unable to shake a childhood passion for roller coasters, or that beneath his Harvard pinstripes beats the heart of a buttoned-down Barnum. But the fact is that while he enjoyed visiting parks as a child, Mr. Burke, the Bronx-born son of a homicide detective, did not contract the

amusement park virus until he joined Premier's predecessor, Tierco Group, in 1989.

By then, Mr. Burke had taught high school English, practiced corporate and real estate law and worked as an investment banker at Drexel Burnham Lambert. Through his work at Drexel, he came to know some of the family members who controlled Tierco. When offered the chief executive's position there, he readily accepted.

Now an amusement park junkie, Mr. Burke regularly takes his four children, aged 6 to 13, on the rides at Premier parks and those of the competition. So do most other Premier executives, including James F. Dannhauser, the chief financial officer and also a Harvard law graduate, and Gary Story, the president and chief operating officer, who started in the amusement park business at 16 and has managed parks from Mexico to Australia. (Mr. Burke and Mr. Dannhauser are based in New York; Mr. Story and most other senior executives have offices in Oklahoma City.)

Rides, after all, are the heart of the business — the draw that brings people back again and again. When Premier added a river rapids ride at Frontier City in 1990, for example, attendance increased by 60,000 that year and has continued to rise.

Premier prides itself on running family parks with rides for all ages. At its Adventure World in Largo, Md., for example, visitors may choose from a water park, 14 children's rides and 34 adult rides, including Roar, a world-class wooden roller coaster.

Interviewed recently at the park, Selina Bankert was about to take her three sons home to Annapolis, Md., for their naps. She would be back many more times this summer, she said, because she was a second-year season ticket holder, and her 5-year-old son, John, and his 2-year-old twin brothers, Scott and Paul, loved the park.

"It's a good value for us," she said of her season ticket, which she bought for \$44, "because we come at least once a week for an hour or two."

Across the country, at the 109-year-old Elitch Gardens in Denver, Tommy and Adair Toms of York, Neb., are among some 75,000 season ticket holders. This day, the Toms, who spend a good deal of time in the Denver area, were accompanying their son, daughter-in-law and two of their 11 grandchildren.

Burke did not contract the amusement park virus until after he joined Premier's predecessor.

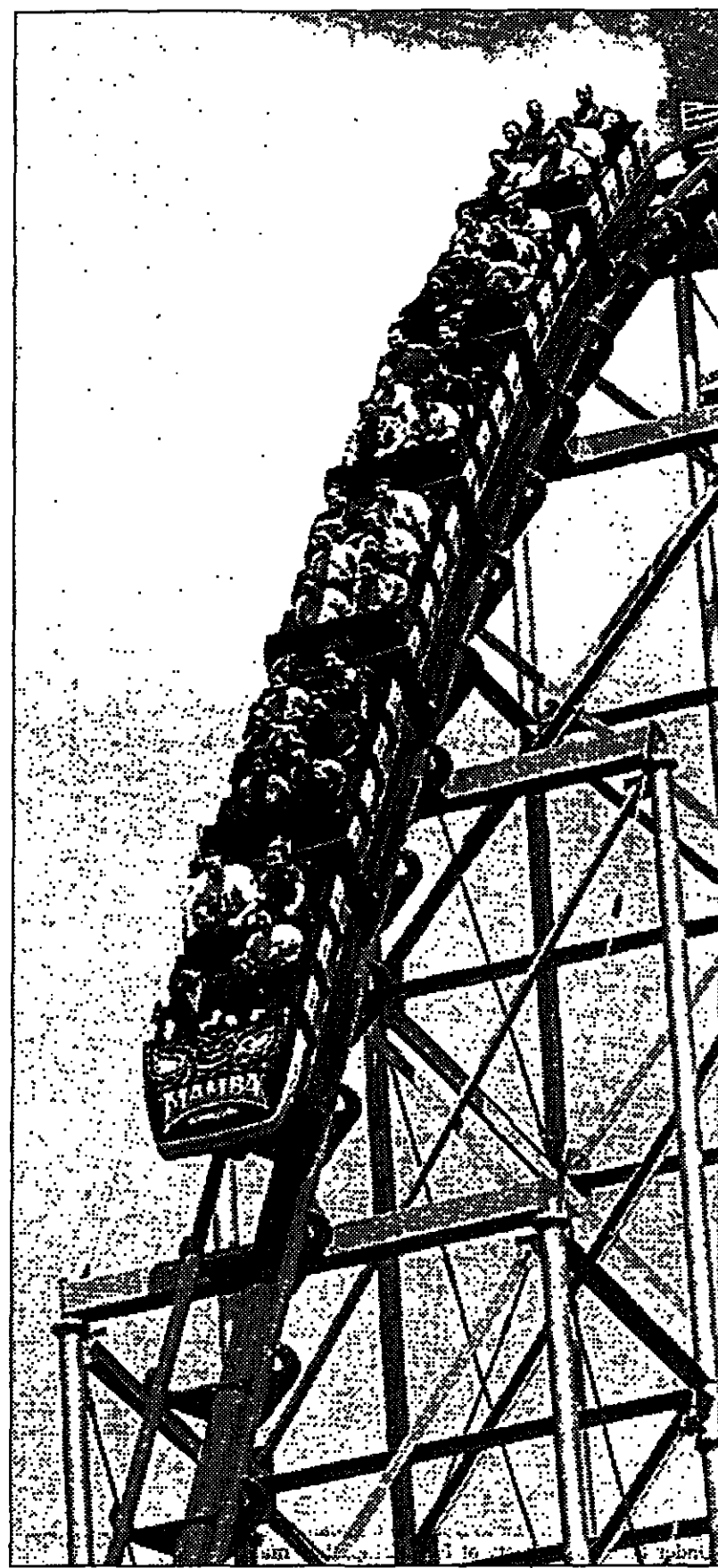
"We came here soon after our first date in 1955," Mr. Toms said.

"We danced to all the big bands," Mrs. Toms remembered, ticking off several band leaders, including Harry James and Les Brown, whose photographs hang on the walls of the park's rebuilt Trocadero ballroom.

Waving to their grandchildren suspended in the air inside a huge teacup — one of 48 rides in the park, including a \$30 million package of new attractions installed last year — Mrs. Toms said, "It's still a great place to spend a day with kids."

Tim O'Brien, an editor of the weekly Amusement Business magazine in Nashville, said that while Premier parks have generally shunned the glitz — and high prices — that accompany the better-known, high-technology rides, "their rides have always been good and have been getting better." Those at Six Flags are "just awesome," he added.

When all is said and done, the smaller attendance and lower ad-



The Mamba roller coaster at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Mo., rotates 580 degrees at 60 miles per hour.

mission prices at Premier parks have had no noticeable effect on the company's financial performance — except maybe to enhance it, by impressing on management the value of running a lean operation.

After acquiring Elitch Gardens last year, Premier promptly moved park executives from a high-rise office tower to the park itself. And Premier is now in the process of trimming the ranks at Six Flags AstroWorld Houston, which had 140 full-time employees, twice the number at Elitch, where attendance is about the same.

The seasonal operation of Premier's parks is another reason for the company's success, Mr. Burke said. "It enables us to operate with fewer full-time employees year-round," he said. "We also do a rigorous budgeting process from September to December, we refurbish every ride at every park, and we plan our marketing campaigns, our telemarketing and our group sales."

Still another explanation of the company's strength goes back to the early days with Frontier City. The company realized that it had become part of "a fragmented industry with a lot of parks out there that didn't have the necessary capital or management skills," Mr. Burke said. "So we knew if we could demonstrate to the financial community that we could turn Frontier around, we could acquire other parks."

Before its purchase of Six Flags, Premier concentrated on acquisitions in areas that had at least a million people within a 100-mile radius, and today it has parks in 16 of the top 25 markets, including Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Washington. With the Six Flags purchase,

some 175 million Americans live within 150 miles of a Premier park.

Along the way, Premier maintained a low enough profile to execute its game plan virtually undetected. That is why so much of the industry and Wall Street were taken by surprise when Premier bought Six Flags for \$965 million, plus the assumption of about \$890 million of debt.

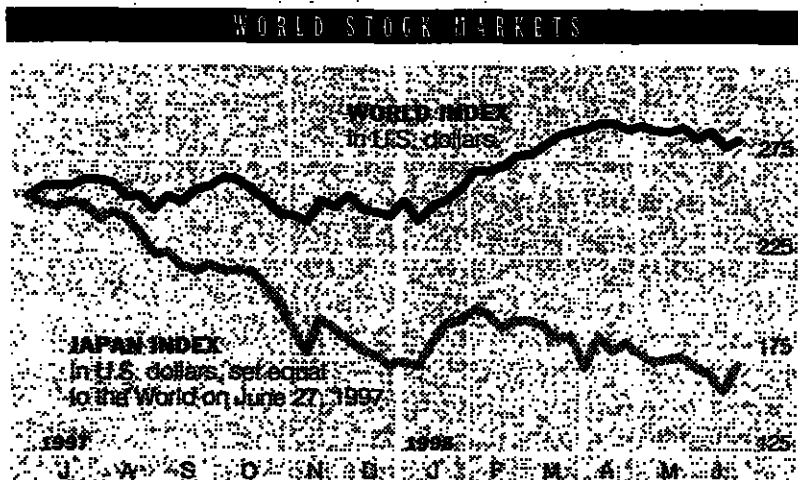
"On the surface, Premier paid a pretty full price," said Mr. Zachar of Nationsbank Montgomery. "But Six Flags' cash flow last year was about \$160 million, and those parks were undermanaged, so there are still margins to grow."

How? "Warner's made money from its parks," Mr. Burke said, "but they were in the amusement park business not so much for the revenue as for the sale of merchandise and the exposure of their characters. But our only business is parks. So this transaction allows each of us to concentrate on our core business."

Analysts share his confidence. Both Mr. Petrella of Lehman and Jill S. Krutick of Salomon Smith Barney say the company's stock could trade at \$70 or more in 12 to 18 months.

Once the 12-month breather is over, where will the Premier roller coaster go next? Possibly it will range farther abroad to areas that are only now awakening to the lure of amusement parks, namely Europe, Asia and Latin America. Many foreign markets, Mr. Burke said, are as fragmented as the United States was in the 60's and 70's.

That could make for a thrilling ride.



Prepared by Goldman, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actives World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS IN LOCAL CURR.

Country	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Dividend Yield	YTD % Chg.
Australia	187.31	5.4	5	6.4	18	3.97	199.40 - 2.4
Austria	231.10	-0.9	24	22.2	9	1.58	214.07 21.2
Belgium	364.42	2.1	9	43.2	2	2.09	330.54 42.2
Brazil	212.21	-1.1	19	-11.0	21	2.26	451.55 - 7.8
Canada	378.82	1.8	10	14.2	12	2.97	335.51 12.2
Denmark	225.01	-2.9	29	5.9	15	1.67	239.61 8.9
Finland	504.99	-0.7	23	12.9	14	1.37	466.71 12.0
France	412.43	-0.1	20	48.1	1	1.96	469.01 47.3
Germany	319.25	0.4	16	33.4	5	1.99	299.39 32.6
Hong Kong	298.42	0.9	15	30.1	6	1.20	278.60 29.0
Indonesia	251.74	8.6	3	-29.5	27	6.30	250.16 -29.6
Italy	26.85	2.7	8	-56.3	28	2.79	250.40 12.4
Japan	515.93	-0.5	22	28.5	7	1.89	514.84 29.7
Malaysia	150.47	0.0	18	35.5	4	1.34	209.21 34.7
Mexico	92.27	8.5	4	-3.2	16	1.01	78.12 -0.2
Netherlands	129.14	1.5	12	-21.4	23	3.30	192.74 -21.8
New Zealand	1,391.60	4.8	6	-22.8	25	1.98	1,336.80 -14.8
Norway	502.29	-0.5	21	22.5	8	2.01	460.66 21.5
Philippines	60.28	4.5	7	-21.1	22	5.03	60.47 -13.5
Singapore	296.12	-2.2	27	-7.3	19	2.06	303.13 -5.2
South Africa	74.25	-4.8	30	-6.4	17	1.14	149.31 -5.3
Spain	158.90	11.0	1	-29.4	26	2.58	118.08 -32.5
Sweden	238.48	-2.4	28	-10.1	20	3.03	285.14 1.0
Switzerland	372.83	1.3	13	37.2	3	1.79	427.33 36.2
Thailand	570.89	-1.6	26	21.6	10	1.75	668.08 21.1
United States	395.68	1.3	14	18.1	11	1.13	365.90 18.7
	14.91	9.0	2	-22.7	24	11.27	23.61 -34.5
	449.75	0.3	17	13.5	13	1.43	449.75 13.5

COMPOSITE INDICES						
Europe	354.72	0.9	22.7	2.04	333.58	21.8
Pacific Basin	98.22	8.1	- 7.2	1.76	83.96	- 4.7
Europe/Pacific	205.12	2.8	12.5	1.96	178.14	12.7
World	285.25	1.3	12.4	1.69	261.01	12.7

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. Exchange rates as of Friday's London close. © 1998 The Financial Times Ltd., Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's.

CURRENCIES

Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	136.10	144.72	-5.96	114.78
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.7885	1.8056	-0.95	1.7276
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.4711	1.4693	+0.12	1.3893
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6739	1.6324	+2.54	1.6563

Sources: Bloomberg Financial Markets; exchange rates as of Friday's New York close.

UPS AND DOWNS

June 15-19: Asian Stocks Rally on U.S. Intervention to Bolster the Yen

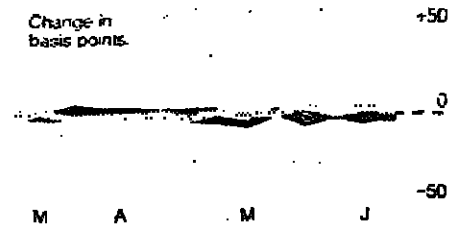
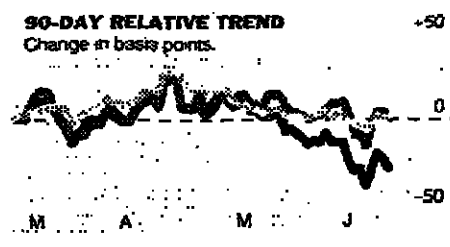
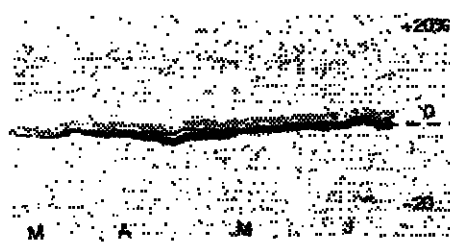
PRICES	Domestic Equities
Broad market	Up 0.16%
S. & P. 500 index	1,100.65
Blue chips	Down 1.38%
Dow 30 industrials	8,712.87
Small capitalization	Down 0.71%
Russell 2000 index	438.47

DOMESTIC BONDS	Domestic Bonds
Treasuries	Down 0.17%
Ryan Labs. Total Return	221.37
Municipals	Down 0.70%
Bond Buyer index	124.00
Corporates	Down 0.24%
Merrill Lynch Master index	974.93

AROUND THE WORLD	European Stocks
F.T.-Actuaries Europe	Up 0.88%
Asian stocks	Up 6.09%
F.T.-Actuaries Pacific Basin	98.22
Gold	Up 4.70%
New York cash price	\$300.80

YIELDS	Bonds
Long bonds	5.66%
30-year Treasuries	Unchanged
Notes	5.50%
2-year Treasuries	Up 7 basis pts.
Municipals	5.22%
Bond Buyer index	Up 4 basis pts.

OTHER INVESTMENTS	Money market funds
Ta-able average	Up 3 basis pts.
Bank C.D.'s	4.98%
1-year small savers	Down 1 basis pt.
Stocks	1.45%
S. & P. 500 dividend yield	Down 1 b.p.



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Suriname's Example

The world's forests have been under siege since the turn of the century, but this year has been calamitous. In Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Central America, Africa and Indonesia, fires have destroyed nearly 40 million forested acres, an area as large as New York State. The easy explanation is El Niño, a perverse weather system that has flooded some regions but left others bone dry. But the main culprit, as always, is human activity, chiefly logging, mining and agriculture, which dries out the forest by stripping it bare of trees, leaving even humid tropical rain forests vulnerable to fire. For that reason, the fires are likely to recur, with or without El Niño, unless something is done to curb mankind's insatiable appetite for wood.

In that context, there was a small ray of hope in the announcement last week that a small South American country, Suriname, had decided to give permanent protection to four million acres of untouched tropical forests, about one-tenth of the entire country. Suriname reached its decision at the urging of Conservation International, an American environmental group that has set up a private trust fund to help Suriname manage the area. The group became actively involved in Suriname several years ago, when Asian timber interests — having pretty much stripped their own countries of marketable hardwoods — sought timber rights on 11 million acres of Suriname's forests. Suriname rejected that deal, and has now put four million of these acres out of reach.

What makes this decision so heartening is that Suriname is a poor country that might normally have jumped at the quick profits promised by foreign logging interests. Far richer nations like Brazil have been unable to resist these blandishments, and Asian timber interests are even now burrowing deeper into the Amazon rain forest. At the other end of the economic scale, Guyana, Suriname's destitute neighbor, has opened up two-thirds of its forest mass to foreign companies.

Suriname chose the long-term economic value of forests over short-term revenues from logging

and other resource-depleting activities. It hopes over time to make money from tourism generated by the forest and its spectacular animal life, from non-timber forest products like tannins and resins, and from "bioprospecting" — the search for medicines among forest plants. The National Institutes of Health and big pharmaceutical companies like Bristol-Myers Squibb are already engaged in this search. This avenue has been left unexplored by most of the world's governments, which own 80 percent of the world's forests and which as a rule cannot see beyond the next truckload of mahogany. The lure of short-term gain is also the main reason various international agreements, including the non-binding "forest principles" adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, have had zero impact.

The larger point here is that a living forest is worth more than a dead forest, locally and globally. Healthy forests prevent erosion and water pollution. They also act as a natural "sink" for the carbon-based gases that contribute to global warming, and, perhaps most important, they harbor at least half of all plant and animal species, with enormous untapped benefits for human health.

More than one-half of the world's original tropical forests have now disappeared, mostly in this century. At present rates of destruction, half of what is left could vanish in the next 50 years. This depressing prospect has not, however, inspired the wealthier nations to act constructively. One of the few tangible products of the 1992 Earth Summit was the Global Environmental Facility, a multilateral body designed to persuade poor countries to hang on to their natural assets, rain forests included. But the United States, which pledged \$435 million over five years, is \$200 million in arrears.

The task of saving the forests has thus been left to private conservation groups, whose resources are limited. The very fact that one of these groups and one small country have joined to save four million acres might shame Western governments into broader action.

Big Mo at Last?

The drive to clean up campaign finance — dismissed as hopeless by many a Beltway expert — got a shot of adrenaline last week. First, the House broke free of the Republican leadership, conducted its first spirited debate on reform and blocked two attempts to derail the Shays-Meehan bill. No less dramatic, nine former leaders of the American Civil Liberties Union repudiated the organization's wrongheaded view that the bill is unconstitutional. The reformers' ranks are growing. It is likelier than ever that the bill can pass in the House.

The constitutional issue was at the center of the week's crucial developments. The A.C.L.U. has warned that Shays-Meehan would violate the Supreme Court's regrettable *Buckley v. Valeo* decision. That 1976 ruling threw out the campaign spending limits imposed by the post-Watergate campaign reform laws on free-speech grounds. By equating spending with speech, the Court has hobbed subsequent efforts to clean up campaign finance. We have argued that neither the Shays-Meehan ban on unlimited donations to political parties nor its curbs of fund-raising for campaign ads run by independent groups violate *Buckley* because they would curb fund-raising, not spending. There have been limits on fund-raising since the ban on corporate giving to candidates in 1907.

Most lawmakers with strong records in civil liberties agree that Shays-Meehan is constitutional. But many Republicans, eager to preserve Con-

gress's current system of influence-peddling, have cited the constitutional concerns as a cover. Independent groups like the National Right to Life Committee, which would have to limit fund-raising for its attack ads, also cite First Amendment concerns. By speaking out, the former A.C.L.U. leaders have blown away that smokescreen.

Given its history, of course, the Supreme Court could reject some Shays-Meehan provisions. That is why it was important last week to defeat a devious amendment advanced by opponents of the bill. It would have nullified the entire bill if any part of it was found to be unconstitutional. Thanks to a strong effort by Richard Gephardt and David Bonior, the Democrats' leader and whip, almost all Democrats voted no. They were joined by 65 Republicans.

Like the House's rejection of an attempt to substitute a study commission for the real reforms of Shays-Meehan, the vote on Friday demonstrated that dozens of Republicans are rebelling against House Speaker Newt Gingrich's plan to position their party as the enemy of clean campaigns. If these reform-minded Republicans now join with the Democrats, Shays-Meehan will win. Opponents are running out of tricks, and Gingrich henchmen like Representative Tom DeLay are losing their ability to intimidate G.O.P. members. With a vote promised before the August recess, this is a summer when lawmakers need to hear from voters who want a Congress that is not on the take.

Editorial Observer/PHILIP TAUBMAN

A Gentler Breeze Is Blowing Through Moscow

Moscow
The warmth and lingering daylight of a Moscow summer could make even the harshest periods of Soviet rule seem less demented. The appearance of flowers and fresh fruits and vegetables in barren markets temporarily lifted the city's spirits, creating the illusion that this was just another European capital marking time until the August holidays.

Now it is no longer an illusion. Moscow may not be Paris or Rome, but it is no longer a world apart. The differences of dress, demeanor and politics that made Moscow so distinctively depressing have melted away. From its monumental traffic jams to its supermarkets, boutiques and elegant restaurants, Moscow is a big, bustling, brash metropolis exploding with energy and entrepreneurial activity.

To see the city again after an absence of three years, and to compare it to the Soviet citadel of 10 years ago where I worked as a correspondent, is to appreciate anew how far Russia has traveled since the demise of Communism. The economy is shaky,

The new Russia is on display in Pushkin Square.

corruption is ubiquitous and the power of the wealthiest bankers and businessmen remains largely unchecked, but these and other deformities should not overshadow the political and economic changes that have transformed Russia in just a few years. Almost as swiftly as the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution sealed Russia in hermetic isolation, the arrival of democracy and capitalism have set it free and tied it to the West, culturally and economically.

Moscow is the epicenter of change, and the locus of wealth, in the new Russia. It will be some time before the rest of the country, including St. Petersburg, comes anywhere close to matching the standard of living now enjoyed by many Muscovites. One of the best seats for observing the new Russia is on the terrace outside the cavernous McDonald's at

Pushkin Square. Though the novelty of Big Macs has faded, the restaurant still has cachet with Russians and serves as a mecca for affluent young Muscovites. They arrive in Jeep Cherokees and Toyota Land Cruisers, cell phones in hand. The men are dressed nattily in light-weight pleated trousers, colorful sport shirts and tasseled loafers, the women in short skirts, tight tops and stylish Italian shoes. The scene seems almost unimaginable to someone who lived here a decade ago.

The McDonald's also attracts working-class customers who have become indistinguishable in appearance from their counterparts in London or New York. The nondescript Soviet wardrobe has almost entirely vanished, replaced by jeans, colorful outfits and Nike or Reebok shoes. Even eyeglasses and sunglasses are sleek. After decades of enforced conformity in everything from clothing to politics, Russians have seized the chance to assert their individuality.

Across from the McDonald's is a small plaza that is part of the boulevard that circles central Moscow. Once a cheerless place with a few

In Asia Crisis, Restoring Yen Is Only a Band-Aid

To the Editor:

The United States' decision to join Japan in buying yen to stop its fall (front page, June 18) raises questions that underscore the weakness of Washington's understanding of the Asian debt crisis.

The banks, not the currency, are at the heart of the problem. Poor lending practices in Japan produced a situation that has put most Asian companies on unsmooth financial footing. Too much exporting and not enough importing created a surplus of money that the Japanese have lent based on unrealistic growth and value projections.

Change in import practices and writing off loans is what needs to be done to correct the financial problems in Japan and the rest of Asia.

A stronger yen will not increase Japanese imports or make Indonesian, Korean or Thai debt disappear.

Donald B. Gimbel
New York, June 18, 1998
The writer is president of a global asset management company.

To the Editor:

While I agree with you (editorial, June 15) that Japan's bank bailout plan needs to be started without further delay, I disagree that Japan's central bank has done all it can in using monetary policy to solve Japan's economic crisis.

Even though interest rates in Japan are below 1 percent, the real cost of credit can be pushed negative by price inflation.

Japan's central bank must act now to ease monetary policy so that consumer prices, which have been unchanged over the past year, begin to rise. Money growth in Japan decelerated sharply from about 15 percent in 1996 to about 8 percent recently.

Reversing this shift and causing some inflation along the way would help spur Japan's economy by driving the cost of credit negative. And inflation that spills over into real estate values would help turn marginally bad real estate loans into profitable ones, aiding the rescue of the banking sector.

Robert G. Murphy
Chestnut Hill, Mass., June 18, 1998
The writer is an associate professor of economics at Boston College.

Lott's Comments Highlight Divisions of G.O.P.

To the Editor:

As a committed and lifelong Republican, I take strong exception to the reprehensible remarks by Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, who called homosexuality a "sin" (news article, June 16).

His vile words were intended to be divisive and to appease the far-right fringe of the party. He hit home on both counts and, shamefully, nothing positive is the result. Mr. Lott has unnecessarily alienated productive, morally balanced and patriotic people, both homosexual and heterosexual.

Most Americans know that gay people are not in need of pity, concern or counseling. Mr. Lott's unfounded stance focuses attention on nonproblems when there are so many real social issues crying out for our attention and his leadership.

Ronald G. Eberhardt
Washington, June 16, 1998

To the Editor:

Re "Controversy Over Lott's Views of Homosexuals" (news article, June 17):

Viewed in its entirety, what Trent Lott, the Senate majority leader, said about homosexuals was very tolerant. He said, "You still love the person." Basically, he was saying that it is possible to disagree with someone without tearing them down.

Likewise, I'm sure most people have not disavowed their friends simply because they happen to be alcoholics. Gay people are entitled to be treated in the same way as anyone else. Gay advocacy groups are showing intolerance to those who respectfully disagree with their philosophies.

Daniel W. Todd
Omaha, June 17, 1998

To the Editor:

As the Asian financial situation worsens (front page, June 17), suggestions like those in Thomas L. Friedman's June 13 column defending the International Monetary Fund exaggerate the good the fund can do at its best and minimize the damage it does at its worst. The Asian crisis that began as a snowflake in Thailand a year ago snowballed into a threat to the world economy because of I.M.F. policy blunders of the kind that have characterized its economic approach for the last 25 years.

The amount of capital available to the monetary fund is tiny compared with the size of the problems in Asia it has created by browbeating the region's governments into raising taxes and devaluing currencies.

When a currency is attacked by speculators, it is because they are betting on a devaluation. The worst response of a government is to raise taxes, which reduces the demand for the currency and thus makes it harder to defend.

The I.M.F. applies the same formula, never learning from its experience, because its analytical framework is etched in stone.

Jude Wanniski
Morristown, N.J., June 17, 1998
The writer is an economist.

To the Editor:

A June 15 front-page article rightly points out the difficulties of eliminating sweatshops when Asian workers are more desperate for jobs than



Karen Caldwell

ever. However, the reported assertion by economists that the only way to eliminate sweatshops is to generate economic growth leaves out an essential ingredient in the equation: democracy.

It was during the heyday of economic growth in Indonesia that sweatshops proliferated. The problem is that workers did not have the ability to stand up for their rights. There was only one Government-controlled labor union, the military was called in to put down strikes, and workers who tried to organize were fired, jailed or murdered.

With the overthrow of President Suharto, Indonesian workers are starting to win back some of their rights. What remains to be seen is whether American companies, fearing the winds of democracy, will cut and run to more "stable" regimes like China.

Medea Benjamin
Co-director, Global Exchange
San Francisco, June 16, 1998

To the Editor:

Your description of the devastating impact of the Asian economic crisis on workers is all too accurate (front page, June 15).

In March I interviewed workers in Indonesia as part of a fact-finding delegation visiting footwear subcontractors doing business with American companies like Nike. The major concerns were low wages and fear of dismissal. One footwear worker said: "The high price of goods in our country has made it very difficult. Wages have not increased. We are trying to figure out how to make it."

Company codes of conduct should be put in place to make sure that sweatshop conditions are eradicated irrespective of the economic context at a given moment. Nike has taken important steps to monitor its labor standards, but more remains to be done to protect workers' rights and to address the estimated 60 percent decrease in the purchasing power of workers' wages in Indonesia.

(Rev.) David M. Schilling
New York, June 18, 1998

The writer is director, global corporate accountability program, Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

Politics of Apathy

To the Editor:

Your June 14 front-page article on Ron K. Unz, the California millionaire who "beat bilingual teaching," misses what was truly disturbing about his "victory." As you say, he may represent a new kind of force on the California political scene who can change policy through narrowly focused initiatives, but he does not speak for, represent or lead a roused conservative population. No, Mr. Unz succeeds through apathy.

The numbers are disturbing. Some 20 million Californians are eligible to vote. Of those, 3.4 million voted for his initiative. In other words, 15 percent of the vote-eligible population has authorized a change that every professional teaching body in the state regards as potentially disastrous. The result is a tyranny of the minority, one effected by people like Ron Unz, who has no experience with bilingual education, simply because he can.

Tony Mastrogiorgio
San Francisco, June 15, 1998

Tuberculosis Vaccine?

To the Editor:

The sequencing of the tuberculosis bacterium's genome sets the stage for significant progress in TB research (Week in Review, June 14).

Yet the National Institutes of Health spends only \$65 million a year on the study of tuberculosis, a pittance compared with its financing of research on equally important diseases like H.I.V. (\$1.5 billion a year) and cancer (\$2.7 billion a year). Knowing the sequence of the TB genome could allow scientists to study how the bacterium escapes the body's immune system and what makes some strains of TB more deadly than others. It could also accelerate the development of new drugs and an effective vaccine. But none of these advances will take place unless we invest the necessary resources now.

Celine Gounder
Washington, June 15, 1998
The writer is project manager of the Princeton Project 59 Tuberculosis Initiative.

Script by Michael Jordan

To the Editor:

By comparing the "drama of Michael Jordan" to a drama that "never loses its appeal even though we have seen it before" (editorial, June 16), you reaffirm the similarities between our greatest works of dramatic art and the greatest sporting events.

No matter how many times we may have seen Bix's "Carmen" or Shakespeare's "Macbeth," a great performance of these and many other dramatic masterpieces can be as thrilling as a sporting event like game six of the Jazz-Bulls series.

Like Bix and Shakespeare, our greatest athletes are also creative artists. However, these athletes get to perform in the drama as well.

The main difference between a drama on the stage and one on the field of play is that staged dramas have fixed endings, while athletes write a new script every time they take the field.

Richard A. Kavesh
Nyack, N.Y., June 17, 1998

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The Joke's On Him

WASHINGTON
Have you heard the one about John McCain?

The famously noble politician got up at a Republican fund-raiser last week and made a now-infamously ignominious joke.

He is so revered by the press that his disgusting joke was largely nudged under the rug. "It's like a return to the Kennedy era," said one magazine editor. "He makes a gaffe, and we look the other way."

The story of Washington is the story of why smart people do dumb things. And why politicians swing fitfully between doing the right thing and doing the wrong thing.

Mr. McCain made it through five years of torture in North Vietnam. The Arizona Senator has also been brave in Washington, inciting the wrath of his party and powerful lobbies with quixotic battles for the best causes: campaign finance reform and making Big Tobacco kick its habit of marketing to kids.

In a capital where politicians follow more than lead, Senator McCain has been an edifying exception. Even though his independent streak and quick temper have made him Republican enemies, his idealism and easy way with the press got him on the short list for 2000.

So how does such a lofty figure sink to the basement?

The joke that he thought was funny was about Chelsea Clinton, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Janet Reno.

"This is the bad boy," he said in a phone interview. "It was stupid and cruel and insensitive. I've apologized. I can't take it back. I could give you a whole bunch of excuses, but there are no excuses. I was wrong, but do you want me crucified? How many days does it need to be a story?"

He said the Senator who spoke just before he did to the Republican fat cats made a tasteless joke about Viagra. "So I got up and said, 'You think that was a tasteless joke? Listen to this one.' The minute it came out of my mouth, I thought, 'Oh no, this is a terrible mistake.'"

But, he added, defensively, "I will always maintain a sense of humor. Life is too short not to."

Senator McCain does stand-up.

Life is also too short for making the President's daughter the target of a junky, misogynistic crack masquerading as humor.

Mr. McCain said he wrote a letter of abject apology to the President. That's good politics. But where's the letter to Janet Reno? He says he doesn't think that such a letter is necessary.

Because the President and Mr. McCain have been working together on the campaign finance and tobacco issues, the White House response was muted. "It takes a severe lapse in synapses to make a joke about personal things like that," says Clinton spokesman Michael McCurry, who has occasionally lost control of his own synapses. "Most prominent people at one time or another have a close encounter with the distasteful."

It is downright weird that Senator McCain would be the one to break the taboo against cheap shots at the lovely and self-possessed Chelsea. He said he thought he'd heard the joke on Jay Leno. But Mr. Leno, not one to shrink from the tasteless, protests: "I've never, ever done a Chelsea joke nor would I. Political humor is like the Mafia — everything's open game as long as you don't go after the families."

Don Imus was befuddled by the blunder of one of his favorite guests. "It's horrible, yecchhh! This guy is a genuine American hero. I don't know why they do it. Some idiotic effort to be one of the guys. Like me at the correspondents' dinner."

I'm humiliated. After so many politicians have humiliated themselves or ruined their careers with stupid ethnic and sex jokes, from Earl Buttz's "joke" about blacks to Bob Katter's "joke" about lesbians to Al D'Amato's "joke" about Judge Ito — why do they keep doing it?

They can't stop," says Alan Dundes, a folklorist and expert in the anthropology of humor at Berkeley. "It's part of the male arsenal of weapons to make your way in the world. If McCain is worried about being too liberal for his colleagues, this is one way of indicating that he's one of the Republican boys — attacking the Democratic President by attacking his women. Since ancient times, you get at your male opponent by violating his women. If the women's honor is lost, the man's honor is lost. McCain was in the military. He knows you conquer enemies by feminizing the men and putting down the women."

Mr. McCain will survive. But he may have learned a lesson about the politics of virtue. The holier they come, the harder they fall.



The Divorced Dad's Burden

By Gail Sheehy

The cliché is the Deadbeat Dad. The newer reality is the Deadbeat Dad — locked out of his children's hearts after divorce.

It isn't a happy Father's Day when dad has to return his progeny by 6 P.M. on Sunday, like rented videos, knowing that his next chance for "take-out fathering" won't be for two weeks. Most of us still assume that divorced dads come in only one variety — those who walk out, ignore their children and balk at paying child support orders — and more than a million women can attest to this painful reality. But for many men, the situation is just the opposite.

Close to four million divorced fathers in the United States do pay child support. In many cases, these are men who have fought for joint or full custody, and lost. When they demand more time with their children, they find that little attention is paid to enforcing or honoring visitation rights.

On a recent cross-country book tour I was struck by the numerous stories I heard from such men — post-patriarchal New Men who are deeply attached to their children — about the biases they face in the courts, day care centers and their children's schools, not to mention from punitive former wives. A Southern talk show host said he has nightmares that his former wife is "padlocking" his children's hearts and that when he tries to "come home again," he will find the locks changed.

That nightmare came true for Mike, a 36-year-old financial planner from Virginia. He found a surprise message from his wife on his office phone: "I've taken our son and gone back to my parents' place."

Mike made the 800-mile round trip to see his wife and infant son every few weeks and was led to believe they would reconcile. Six months to the day after she left, his wife sued for divorce. Because she had established residency for their child in another state, she now had a more sympathetic environment in which to demand full custody.

"My life has been a nightmare ever since," Mike told me. This Deadbeat Dad has traveled 15,000 miles in the last year to see his baby son, compelled by court order to limit his "contact" to 29 hours a month. It's not anger one hears in Mike's voice; it's agony.

His child did not choose to have only one parent. Growing up with a "hotel father" is bad enough, but his son has also lost half of his extended family. "There are 30 other people — grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts, uncles, cousins — who could have a positive impact on my son's life," Mike said. "I'm not a Deadbeat Dad, but I am getting close to being a Beat-Dead Dad. It's heartbreaking."

The political posse that began chasing Deadbeat Dads in the 1980's did achieve major social reform. According to the most current Census Bureau data, 76 percent of the nearly five million women due child support receive at least a portion of what they are owed, a total of nearly \$12 billion a year, according to the most recent figure.

The greater role fathers are taking in raising children is one of the strongest shifts in the family ideal. "There has been a fairly consistent increase in the proportion of fathers acting as primary child care providers during the last decade, among both married and divorced parents," said Martin

O'Connell, chief of fertility and family statistics at the Census Bureau.

More and more men whose wives work and who have preschoolers are now acting as the primary caregiver — 22 percent in 1994, up from 17 percent in 1988, Mr. O'Connell said. Think about it: a quarter of the men in this category — 1.4 million fathers — are taking up much of the responsibility for dressing, feeding and diapering their babies. And many more men who don't label themselves as Mr. Mom still shoulder a significant share of the responsibility.

It sounds like the sort of sensible role fluidity that progressives have long advocated, right?

But what happens when the traditional dialogue between the stay-at-home-mom and fast-track father is reversed — when it is the working wife who says, "I've grown and you haven't — sorry, but I want out?"

These Mr. Moms may be stunned when they face courts still operating under old stereotypes about the inviolate mother-child bond. Their claims to custody are seldom recognized — even joint custody is not easily won. To shut men out of their children's lives as a consequence of divorce not only robs the child and parents, but it also fails our society.

Larry Pollack, a New York matrimonial lawyer for a quarter of a century, described a typical case in which his client is the husband. When the wife received a hot-shot job offer in New York, the couple moved up from the South, where the husband had made his living buying and selling real estate and fixing up houses. She became the breadwinner, while he took on the role of soccer dad.

When the wife asked for a divorce, Mr. Pollack said, the husband believed the courts would recognize his wish to continue being the hands-on, day-to-day parent. Mr. Pollack is trying to persuade the father not to fight, because he won't win. Even though the mother intends to continue her de-

Caring fathers, societal hurdles.

manding professional life by hiring nannies, she will almost certainly win custody, Mr. Pollack said, because it is seen as a social disgrace for a mother to lose custody of a child.

Some courts do recognize fathers' rights when both parents are reasonable. The phrases "shared parenting" and "time sharing" are gradually entering the legal lexicon, promoted by groups like the American Coalition for Fathers and Children. But the key to making such arrangements work is not the courts; it is parents who are grown up enough to sacrifice their revenge fantasies for the greater good of the child they created together. Some, at least, can manage to clear this difficult emotional hurdle.

A Massachusetts research scientist named Roger, divorced at 50, was furious at having to give up his rights as a full-time father. In spite, he planned to move to California, get a condo, dye his hair and start dating. The children could visit when it was convenient.

"But I forced myself to think long term," he told me, and that meant sticking around the same neighborhood and convincing his former wife that allowing him to continue fulfilling the father's role was essential. He sees his children several times a week, not in a hotel or at McDonald's, but driving them to the dentist or doing homework together.

Gail Sheehy is the author of "Understanding Men's Passages."

In America

BOB HERBERT

Fighting Citizen Abuse

Richard Emery filed the lawsuit that led to the transformation of city government several years ago. The Board of Estimate, controlled to a great extent by Democratic Party bosses, was abolished and the powers of the mayor and the City Council were enhanced.

In a recent interview, Mr. Emery said he believes the changes have worked reasonably well. "We're seeing our first big budget battle," he said. "It's over a corollary issue [Yankee Stadium] but it's a legitimate budget battle, and that's healthy. There's a genuine balance of power in the city."

But as a veteran fighter for civil liberties, Mr. Emery is always concerned about the misuse of the tremendous power of government, those chilling moments when government officials, behind the protective curtain of the law, trample the rights of the innocent.

Those moments occur more frequently than most of us realize. And it is with that in mind that Mr. Emery is putting together a new law firm. It will be called Emery, Celli, Brinckhoff & Abady and its chief mission will be to serve as a counterforce to the abusive practices of government and other large institutions. The intent, Mr. Emery said, is to move aggressively on cases of false arrest, police brutality, the illegal stifling of dissent and other matters that amount to what he calls "citizen abuse."

Mr. Emery has long been drawn to those kinds of cases. Soon after graduating from Columbia Law School in 1970 he founded the Institutional Legal Services Project in the state of Washington, where he pushed litigation that led to an overhaul of the state's backward mental commitment law and improvements in notoriously poor prison conditions.

In the late-70's, as a staff attorney for the New York Civil Liberties Union, he successfully represented a man who was beaten and humiliated by the police in a gay bar. In the 1980's he won the release from prison of Bobby McLaughlin, a Brooklyn man who had been sentenced to 15 years to life for a murder he didn't commit.

Last year, because of a class-action suit filed by Mr. Emery, a policy of routinely strip-searching suspects accused of minor offenses in Manhattan and Queens was ended. More than 53,000 people accused of infractions as minor as driving without a license

had been forced to undergo the humiliating searches.

Mr. Emery and his partners in the new firm currently represent a number of clients who are in legal fights with the Giuliani administration. They include newsstand operators, many victims of alleged police abuse, an activist group called Housing Works that has claimed its criticism of the Mayor led to the illegal cancellation of its contract with the city, and Public Advocate Mark Green, who has been stymied in his effort to get data on cops who were never disciplined despite having excessive-force complaints substantiated by the Civilian Complaint Review Board.

Mr. Emery said, "We want to have a firm where the people in this city can come and know they are going to get the best advice and the best representation with respect to whether

When government misuses its power.

their rights are being violated, whether it's by the city, state or Federal governments, or other major institutions."

He said the firm is not interested in personal-injury lawsuits. The primary goal is to curb the abuse of power.

It is, of course, ironic that the man primarily responsible for the most recent increase in the power of the mayoralty is establishing a law firm to represent the people being steamrolled by that power.

"Rudy Giuliani is the first mayor since the new charter to really use all of his powers, and even overuse his powers," Mr. Emery said. "As a lawyer and a very bright, hard-working guy, he has pushed the envelope." He said the Mayor has been particularly tough on dissenters, attacking First Amendment rights in a way that is "unprecedented in this city."

But the courts have been there to defend those rights, he said, adding: "It's not easy. We're constantly navigating the shoals of the court system, trying to find the right theories, the best theories for holding public officials accountable. Government policy should not be undermined where it has validity and is being implemented in a careful, thoughtful, humane way. Regrettably, that happens less than all the time."

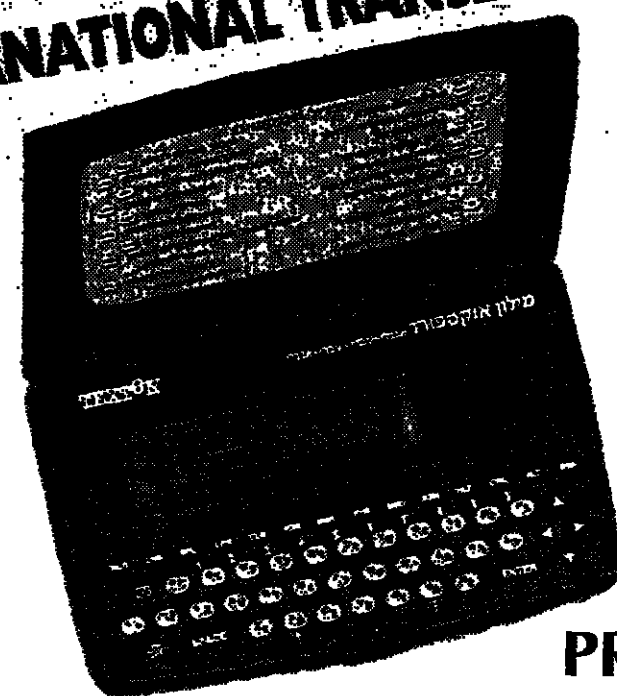
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Music Moved by the Spirit Is Thriving Worldwide

By JON PARELES

IN a palatial home in this ancient city, the musicians of Said Guissi's Aissawa band sat on couches in a semicircle, just doing their jobs. They were singing and drumming and clapping, praising Allah and the Sufi masters and piling syncope on syncope. As the rhythms multiplied, musicians raised straight six-foot trumpets overhead, trading deep, dissonant antiphonal blasts. Despite the presence of tourists, the Moroccans in the room treated the music seriously. It wasn't just a house party: it was a ceremony, from the Aissawa Sufi brotherhood that dated back to the 17th century.

One by one, the Moroccans stood up and let the music drive them to frenzied, flailing dances, with their eyes rolling back in their heads and their arms and legs working furiously. Friends stood by to guide the dancers away from people and furniture, as one woman flew into a trance, with her long hair streaming in all directions, her friend grabbed her feet to remove her high heels. And when a song ended, the dancers collapsed like marionettes let loose.

"The music takes you over completely," said one dancer after his trance. "It is a healing thing."

The Aissawa ceremony took place the same week as the fourth Fez Festival of World Sacred Music, a series of concerts that encompassed whirling dervishes from Turkey, Greek Byzantine chants, Javanese gamelan, Irish chants, Iraqi classical maqam, Andalusian Jewish songs, American spirituals, Spanish medieval cantigas, Indian ragas and Sufi songs from Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan.

For all its variety, the festival was limited to music of monotheism: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. It could have covered an even broader terrain, from the stasis and clangor of Tibetan Buddhist chanting to the drumming and dancing of West African Yoruba ceremonies, and Fez festivals in coming years may do just that. But even with its limitations, it was a festival whose time has come, and perhaps a harbinger of similar gatherings elsewhere: Music Village, an established world-music organization based in London, is planning an ecumenical festival for 1999 called Sacred Voices.

The audience is snowballing for spirituality and the music that expresses it. Spirituality is a loose and open-ended term; it has been applied to Trappist monks and to people who meditate for a few moments between cutthroat negotiating sessions. Books about magic and angels scale the best-seller list; pop hits like Joan Osborne's "One of Us" ponder theological questions. And music billing itself as spiritual, whether it's Gregorian chant or Arvo Pärt's mystical

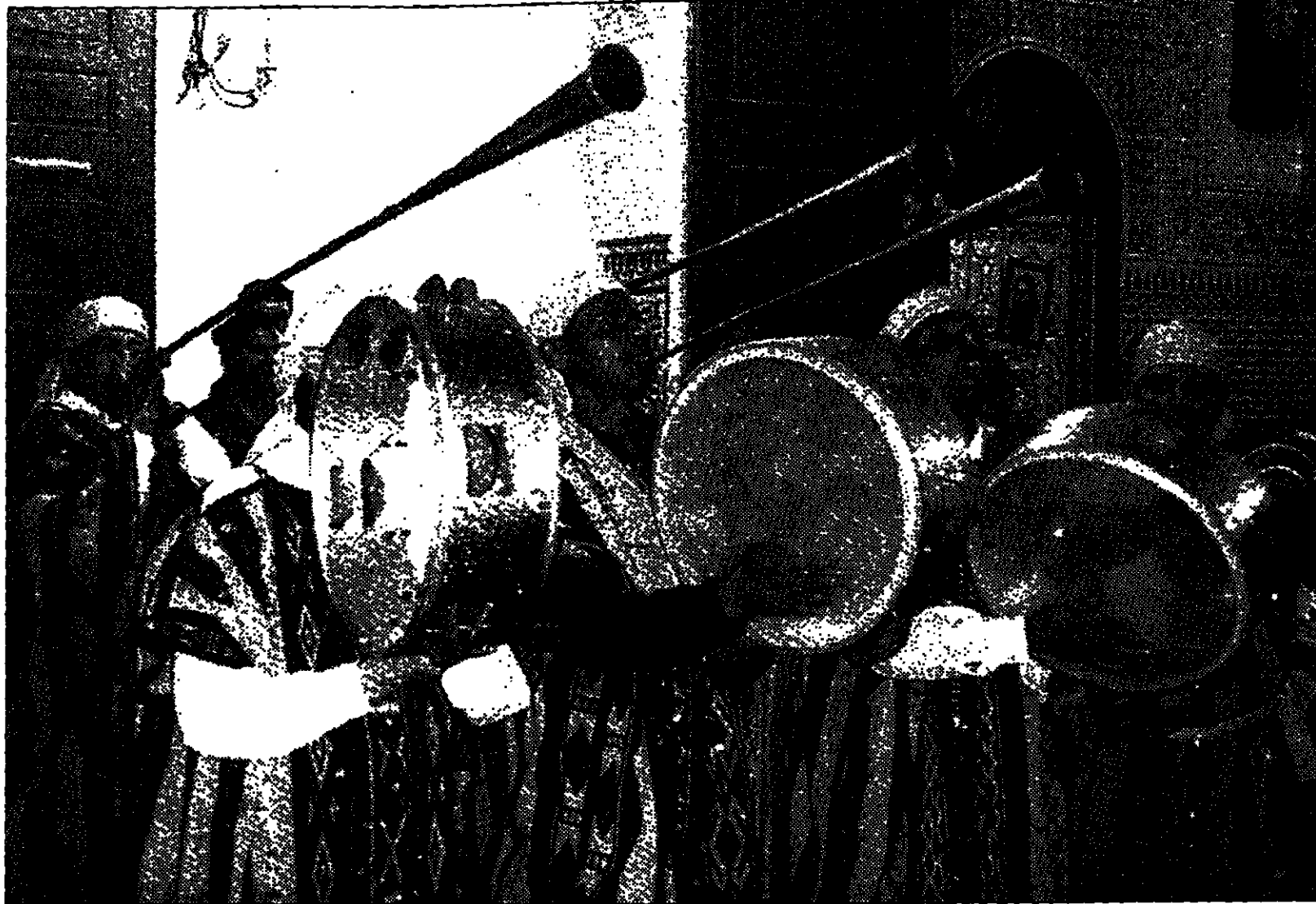
they used to call the "primitive." Sacred art, not least sacred music, preserves ancient ways that may yet have something to teach, or at least spur creative misinterpretation.

Music provides an especially appealing gateway to spiritual feelings, if not necessarily spiritual ideas. Its impact is nonverbal and immediate, more directly absorbed than complex systems of belief. On recordings, music is portable, easy to separate from its original context and ready to be appreciated on esthetic rather than doctrinal terms. Meditative styles can become soothing background music, a respite from the pace of ordinary life and the attention-grabbing jolts of most pop. And hard-driving, high-powered sacred songs, like the qawwali of Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan, can double as party music.

SACRED music offers qualities that are increasingly rare across modern culture: an unhurried pace, a sense of certainty and a strong, selfless passion. People often use art (and music in particular) to compensate for something missing from their lives, achieving in the symbolic realm what eludes them in reality. For secular consumers, a CD of sacred music can be a short cut to the solace and stability provided by a long-standing tradition.

Yet to the many musicians who perform sacred music for non-initiates, just having listeners' attention can be enough. The performers are convinced that the music's properties can benefit everyone who hears it, whether or not they understand the nuances. Even for nonbelievers, the knowledge that a musical work is tied to a ritual — not just an evening's performance — gives it a certain gravity, a kind of cultural and historical seal of approval. Music that has long been used for rituals has been market-tested, so to speak, and in some styles, it can change the physiology of receptive listeners. For outsiders, music that combines devotion with curative purposes, like Aissawa, can be a painless and beautiful form of alternative medicine.

In purely musical terms, there is nothing to set sacred music apart from the secular. Sacred music can be as kinetic as Shinto ceremonial drumming or as motionless as a chanted "om"; it can be as elaborate contrapuntal as a Bach Passion or as stark as a cantor's unaccompanied line. It can be flamboyantly improvisational, like gospel singing, or as fixed as the Verdi Requiem. Some sacred music is directly functional, like the chants that originally marked off segments of a monk's day from matins to evensong, or the Brazilian candomblé that summons the Afro-Brazilian deities known as orixás. And some, like the Persian tradition of maqam, is concert music built around mystical poetry, reflecting on the experience



Said Guissi's Aissawa band praises Allah, piling syncope on syncope. "It's a healing thing," said a dancer emerging from a trance.

human voice and the repetition that drives a text into memory or can lead listeners to meditation or dancing. But there are sacred musics that don't use those elements, secular musics that do and whole idioms — like roots reggae — that can use exactly the same musical setting for a profession of faith or a romantic come-on.

Depending on local cultures and basic principles, some religious musics try to leave behind earthly elements like catchy tunes and propulsive rhythms. Plato, the Puritans and mainstream Islam have all viewed music with distrust, lest its seductive powers distract weak minds from loftier thoughts. But many other persuasions have accepted the power of music as a gift from above, as the expression in sound of natural (or divinely ordained) mathematical laws that govern the overtone series, resonance and consonance. In many faiths, there is no doctrinal separation between the sensual and the sacred, and listeners can dance their way to transcendence.

Sacred and secular composers have raided each other's treasures through the centuries, imbedding folk tunes at the core of medieval cantus firmus masses or annexing gospel call-and-response for "What'd I Say." Rockers like Jerry Lee Lewis savor their own blasphemy; preachers like Al Green redefine soul love songs as gospel dedicated to a higher love. Proselytizers are forever lifting recent pop styles and attaching pious lyrics, though labeling as "sacred" the music of soft-rockers like Bob Carlisle or grunge rockers-come-lately like Creed pushes the word past any useful meaning.

THE sacred music that matters is inherently conservative, connected to a tradition that words and music proudly uphold. Where icons are revered, there's no place for iconoclasm; where revealed truths have been handed down through centuries, there's no great premium on innovation. European composers writing for the church have generally evoked archaic styles, using long-established structures and subordinating some of their own willfulness to recognize links with past generations. As a result, sacred music evolves at its own deliberate speed — rapidly in the case of gospel, glacially for many kinds of chant — and tends to stand outside secular trends. Ideas filter in from outside, but slowly and cautiously. For as long as faith prevails, sacred music doesn't worry about obsolescence.

Music deals with the control of time, and secular idioms are, by and large, content to entertain and manipulate listeners for as long as the music is performed. But sacred music evokes a different kind of time: the continuity of rituals performed regularly through centuries, repeating in a weekly or monthly or annual rhythm, a time frame larger than individual perception. Where most secular music tries to transfer listeners in the present, sacred music promises to carry us beyond it. Past and future are both implicit in sacred music, as they are in every ritual.

Is there an innate human need for ritual, or for something to carry us beyond the everyday? In the 19th century, Richard Wagner and others sought to elevate art to the status of religion, and in modern Western cul-

ture many people are as likely to seek the sublime in a piece of secular art as in a religious service. Many kinds of performances seek to fill such a need, with or without theology attached, borrowing qualities of sacred music like repetition and extended duration. Some people find a ritual intensity in complete presentations of Wagner's Ring cycle; some go out and dance all night to house music at a club, losing themselves in an overwhelming beat. But that beat is punctuated by voices that are reminders of gospel zeal.

Most of all, what draws outsiders to sacred music is the voices, the

sounds of human beings determined to embody something greater than themselves. Vocals are almost a constant in sacred music, whether carrying a prescribed text or expressing wordless devotion, as if deities in every faith demand human witnesses to connect the earthly and the divine. There are exceptions (like the recent series of gospel steel-guitar recordings on Arhoolie), but nearly every sacred tradition treats belief as a personal vow, not something that can be attested to with instruments as proxies.

Sacred voices can be magnificently individual, like Aretha Franklin

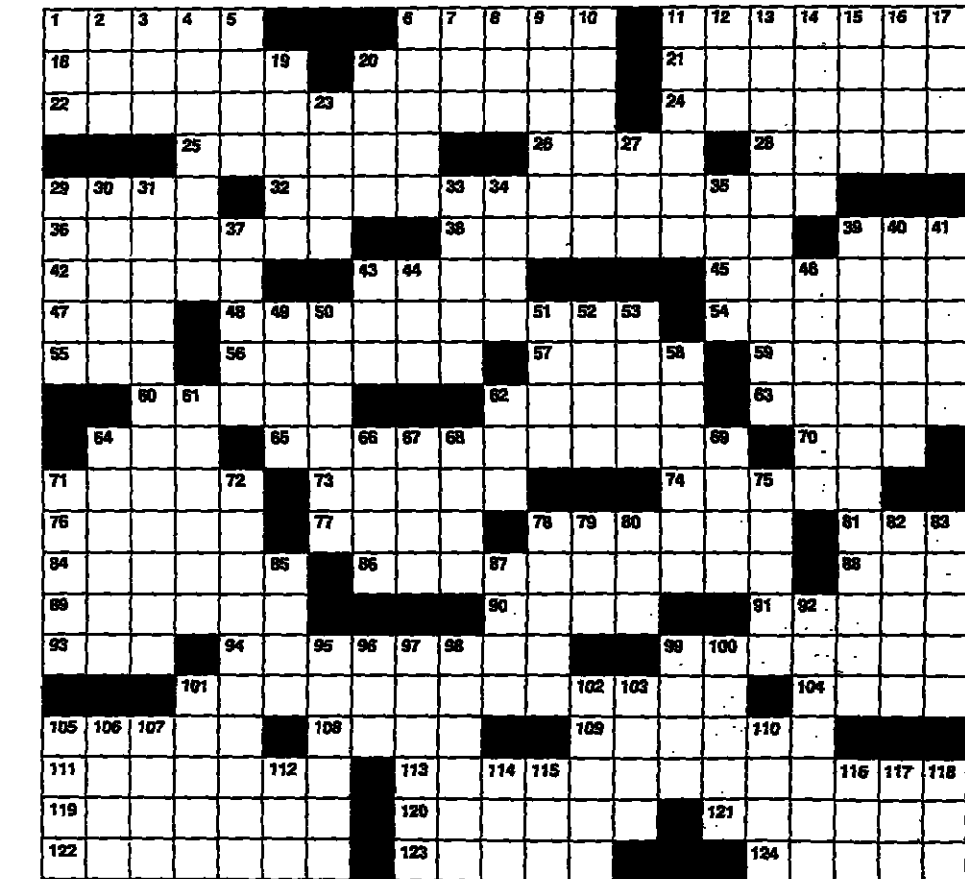
testifying or Alim Kassimov, a singer from Azerbaijan, turning devotional poetry into finely turned, soaring melismas full of incandescent fervor and pinpoint control. Other singers carefully and selflessly execute their music, like chanting Buddhist monks or like the women of Anonymous 4, bringing their otherworldly purity to medieval counterpoint. Style, creed and era aside, the music presents itself with something that has almost disappeared from the arts: humility before the power of God(s), inspiration and time. Even for skeptics, the music itself is something to believe in.

DO THE MATH

BY JIM PAGE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

ACROSS

- 1 1997 N.H.L. M.V.P.
Domink
6 Kind of range
11 Not right?
18 Romeo, e.g.
20 Two for the road
21 Ennoble
22 - 43
24 Sticks
25 Like jambaleya
26 Once, once
28 Papis in films
29 "— speak"
32 - 32
36 What's-his-face
38 Won over
39 "The Black Cat" writer
42 Mentor's charge
43 Blacken, as steak
45 Acropolis figure
47 Tolkien creature
48 - 3
54 Like wedding cakes
55 Rites
56 Key rings?
57 Designer Cassini
59 Uniform alternative
60 "Casablanca" role and others
62 Unkind look
63 "Maid of Athens, — part": Byron
64 "Wheel of Fortune" request
65 - 41
70 "Foucault's Pendulum" author
71 Progress impeders
73 Toward the caboose
74 Writer Fannie
76 Up
77 Dry fuel
78 Educare capital
81 "— vous plait"
84 Rodeo grounds features
86 - 31
88 Suffix with corpus
89 Its main street is Last Chance Gulch
90 Santa's spot?
91 Deadly virus
93 Wall Street whiz
94 Homers reach them
99 Sponges
101 - 90 or - 94, among others
104 Depilatory brand
105 Less tanned
108 Dirt
109 Item on a list
111 One who studies irises
113 - 109
119 Like a gridiron
120 Omega competitors



- 121 Like the heavens
122 Calculator figures
123 Glycicide, e.g.
124 Wake the dead?

DOWN

- 1 That ship
2 It may be pim-sized
3 Saucebound
4 Quarter-millennium
43 1940's Tigers
44 All-Star Newhouse
46 Posting in a French store
49 Ship sunk at Pearl Harbor
50 "Can't do it"
51 Beethoven's birthplace
52 Zeno's home
53 Rustic pipe
58 With 5-Down, a TV gourmet
61 Emissary
62 Elton John, e.g.
64 Pollen container
66 Actress Mary et al.
67 Bring in
68 Stuff
69 Doctor Zhivago
71 Nickname for Alexander
72 Loud
75 Advertising figures
78 Give — of one's own medicine
79 Traffic caution

- 80 Engineer's sch.
82 Words after "Well"
83 Minimal
85 Mordant Mort
87 Book after Neh.
92 Male slave
95 Privileged classes
96 Zeus, to Cronus
97 Four out freely
98 Squares things
99 Strep's — in the Dark
100 The slightest amount
101 C.S.A. general

- 102 House & Garden topic
103 Bugs
105 "Passion" star Negri
106 Kind of indigestion
107 Capital of Denmark in the Middle Ages
110 Gonzo
112 Avg.
114 Potted
115 Island guitar
118 "My man!"
117 Go wrong
118 Ham sandwicher

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

TEADAB ARCHIE OPENER
ARGYLE BAKING EYELEVE
OMELTPIHCEOPFERMARK
SARA BASE TRAIN TEE
WRATIDJUTIGESAL
MAO ESEN APSE
ETHELS PSTT HONONE
DANLIAS SACT NAKSEON
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RUSIAN APPOSE STYEST



Madonna discovered spirituality on her current album, "Ray of Light."

minimalism or vaguely exotic New Age noodelings, is increasingly available and clearly profitable. When Madonna discovers spirituality, as she did on her current album, "Ray of Light," something is definitely in the air.

Individual spiritual impulses are a private matter, but during the 1990's they have added up to a longing for the sacred that seems to span much of Western culture. As the year 2000 approaches in the Western calendar, a sense of premillennial reckoning has many people convinced that something is missing from our earth-bound, materialistic lives. There has been a religious revival at the end of every American century, and as the 20th hurries to a close, many people are seeking magic, security or higher purpose.

Spiritual music, particularly from faraway, unfamiliar places, also stokes multicultural longings: the idea that another culture may have figured out something that's unknown or forgotten at home. Artists in all fields have spent much of the 20th century learning from what

of union with the divine rather than attempting to generate it.

Broadly speaking, sacred music has three roles. It supplicates, praising a deity (or deities) and requesting mercy and good fortune. It meditates, seeking a mental state that carries singers and listeners outside themselves to be directly receptive to the divine. And it celebrates, making a joyful noise that tells the world about the glories of faith. These three roles are not discrete; they mingle and fluctuate, changing with every musical language and sometimes within a single sacred work. The music and words can reinforce basic teaching, cultivate awestruck devotion and channel it toward physical release. Regardless of the efforts lavished on sacred pieces by composers through the centuries, the music is not an end in itself; it is a vehicle for the renewal of worship.

Certain elements are shared by many kinds of sacred music: the drones that fill resonant spaces like cathedrals and Sufi shrines, the use of extended duration, the melismatic lines that use the full flexibility of the

The man who wasn't heeded

Rudolf Vrba's mission when he escaped from Auschwitz – to let people know what was going on and help save Hungarian Jewry – ended in frustration. Here to mark the Hebrew edition of his autobiography, 'I Cannot Forgive,' the outspoken professor shared his views on teaching the Holocaust with Elli Wohlgelemer



Vrba holds a copy of his autobiography, called 'I Escaped Auschwitz' in Hebrew: 'Some Jews thought the Nazis could be negotiated with. Only an idiot would believe that, or a traitor.' (Israel Sun)

to pull away. The SS didn't come close, because they relied on the dogs.

At 10 p.m. Monday night, the search inside the camp was called

of the operations within Auschwitz-Birkenau. The report eventually became the basis of the document known as the Auschwitz Protocols.

their silence, deprived others of the possibility or privilege of making their own decisions in the face of mortal danger," Vrba has written.

People become Holocaust deniers, Vrba says, when they haven't been educated to understand its dimensions. They try to understand it against the background of their own daily experience – and run into trouble... It becomes easier to believe that it didn't happen, than to grasp that it did

off. Vrba and Wetzler left their bunker, slipped beyond the outer perimeter of Auschwitz and headed south toward Slovakia.

Once safe, Vrba and Wetzler contacted the Jewish Council, told them what was going on in Auschwitz, and described the fate awaiting Hungarian Jewry.

Their account, known as the Vrba-Wetzler Report, provided the first graphic and precise account

Vrba's story also reached Dr. Rudolf Kastner, vice chairman of the Relief and Rescue Committee in Budapest.

But Kastner, busy cutting the "Blood for Goods" deal with Adolf Eichmann that would save Jews by paying for them, did not make use of the report to warn Hungarian Jewry.

"It is my contention that a small group of informed people, by

SOME historians argue that a warning would have made no difference, that the Jews of Hungary were not prepared to revolt, and that any rebellion would have been suicidal.

Vrba's accusations have made him controversial, but he cares little.

"I believe the expression is 'calling a spade a spade,'" he says with a half-smile.

"In the fifth year of the war, there were some Kastners who were thinking that the Nazis could be negotiated with. Only an idiot would believe that – or else a traitor covering up something."

Indeed, in 1955 an Israeli court found Kastner, then a senior official in the Ministry of Industry, guilty of collaborating with the Nazis. On March 4, 1957 Kastner was assassinated on a Tel Aviv street. The Supreme Court later reversed the lower court's ruling, finding that in certain circumstances a leader may keep facts secret from the public.

VRBA'S visit to Israel this month was his first to Israel since 1960, when he did a two-year stint as a biochemist in the Agriculture Ministry's Veterinary Research Institute in Bet Dagan.

During his stay, he received an honorary doctorate from Haifa University. "In recognition of his heroism and daring in exposing the horrors of Auschwitz during the war, which led to the saving of Jewish lives; and in profound appreciation of his educational contribution and devotion to spreading knowledge about the Holocaust."

Vrba, an associate professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, has published scores of articles in scientific journals on his research – the effects of exhaustion on the brain, diabetes and cancer.

His research, he says, constitutes 95 percent of his work. The Holocaust occupies only 5 percent of his time.

Still, Vrba has appeared in the BBC's *World At War* series; in *Auschwitz* and *the Allies*, *Survival* and Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*. He also speaks to students all over the world in an attempt to explain the atrocities of World War Two and counter Holocaust deniers.

"I don't like the term neo-Nazis, and I don't buy it," he states. "It's nonsense."

"These are Nazis. And what do you expect from Nazis – to admit Auschwitz? When Auschwitz was running, they were constantly denying it! And today, when it is not running, they deny it even more."

Moreover, Vrba says, "to teach that Jews went like sheep to the slaughter is also nonsense. Anti-semitic nonsense." It implies, he says, that the Jews of Europe lacked even so much as canine intelligence, since no dog would have gone, much less lead its puppies, into a gas chamber.

What is needed, Vrba says, is education at all the different levels of understanding.

"People must know what really happened, how they were deceived, how this deception was propagated."

"You don't quarrel with 'neo-Nazis' about whether it happened, but you educate people on why it happened, in a way they can understand. The intrinsic sense of the Holocaust, the purpose of the Holocaust, must be made known to every civilized, educated person."

"Even Orwell, who was not a fool, said in 1948 that only people of 'a dark brain,' of little education, can believe that people were burned in ovens in Poland."

Holocaust deniers become that way, Vrba says, because "people have their own experiences, life experiences. Faced with the problem of the Holocaust, without having been educated to understand the dimensions of this process, they try to understand it [against the background of] their daily experience – and run into trouble."

It thus becomes easier to believe that it didn't happen, Vrba explains, than to grasp that it did.

Sundays off? Maybe not.

Have fun yesterday? The prime minister, dressed in jeans and a tee-shirt, took his wife and kids out to the park yesterday, utterly oblivious to the strangers around them.

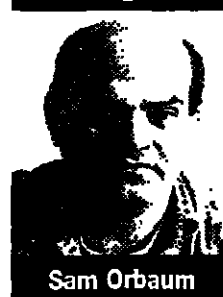
You'd think he had nothing better to do. Well, he didn't: it was Sunday.

It was Sunday, so the president, as he does once a week, slept in, and then took a glass of lemonade out to the backyard and fell asleep again.

The leader of the opposition (Barak, not Arafat) woke up late, feeling lazy and languid. God, he loved Sundays! After breakfast, he curled up with a book, *How To Make Friends and Influence People*.

Yasser and Suha got up late, made love passionately but swiftly, then packed a picnic and got the hell out of town. Those Israelis, thought Yasser with a chuckle, they may have made our lives miserable, but on the other hand, they gave us this most acceptable of Western concepts, Saturday-Sunday weekends.

Not Page One



Sam Orbaum

Yerahmiel didn't break commandments, so he never went to soccer games. Now, he could go. Lots of religious people could – and league officials didn't seem to mind that attendance had doubled.

Ahhh, Sundays! After work on Friday, the Goldberg family piled into the car and drove to the Galilee. They couldn't do much over Shabbat, but it didn't matter, because they didn't have to rush back; they slept over and spent a leisurely Sunday hiking and touring and exploring.

And on Monday, the prime minister and president and Yasser and my handyman, the haredim and seculars, Arabs and Jews, leftists and rightists, all started the new week refreshed and stimulated and happy.

That's what this country needs.

Sundays off.

A gift from God. Mind you, we'd find a way to screw it up. Rather than indulge ourselves and chill out our

You can bet we'd find a way to screw it up

My handyman got out of bed to pee, and that's it. His wife knows – Sundays? David's day off. (A lightbulb blows on a Sunday, I know I have to change it myself.)

What a fine day yesterday! Reb Buxboim of Mea Shearim took his wife and eight kids and ventured beyond the ghetto to see a museum. It was very interesting, but the most amazing thing they saw was people. Other Israelis. It was for the Buxboims a new experience, ever since Saturday-Sunday weekends began.

Secular Israelis visiting the museum had become accustomed to seeing haredim in places like this. They actually even spoke to some of them. Up close, on a nice, relaxed Sunday outing, they seemed, well, OK.

Avi and his girlfriend woke up yesterday with a hangover. Boy, what a night! Nonstop till 5 a.m. at the disco. Now they'd have a full day to recover, a nice, slow Sunday without obligations, without pressure.

And you know what? Changing disco night from Friday to Saturday night was a totally cool idea. Hey, even the haredim thought so.

Eli was psyched. Big soccer game later in the afternoon. Bloody Hapoel, they were gonna get theirs today, that's for sure. Ever since the league switched its games from Shabbat afternoons to Sundays, Eli and his pals could honor the day of rest and head out to the stadium on the day of recreation. And he could take his boy, without feeling guilty that he was breaking a commandment.

national anxiety, we'd probably use Sundays to intensify it.

Sunday would undoubtedly become a day of demos, rallies, confrontation.

Arabs would boycott it because they wouldn't want to be seen as cooperating with the Jews, haredim would ignore it because, feh, it's a Christian concept, and Middle Israel would do what it does best, spoil a good thing by abusing it.

Killing the goose that lays the golden egg is, unfortunately, a famously Israeli characteristic.

And my handyman would stay at home waiting for my call, and then charge double.

So maybe a Saturday-Sunday weekend is not such a good idea. Too civilized for a country so intense. Too sociable for a society so riven.

If God felt we deserved it, He'd have commanded us to enjoy ourselves, which clearly, He has not.

But never mind God: it's the politicians who really count. If they decide a real weekend is what we should have, we'll have it. But until they put in a full work week, they can't possibly understand the urgency of it. And I can't see Israelis making this a political issue, voting for the party that promises Sundays off.

Maybe that's it: Maybe all we need is to first resolve all the other issues at hand. Someday there'll be nothing else to deal with, and this will become the number one national priority.

So much to do, so little time. With so much to do, who can afford to take Sundays off?

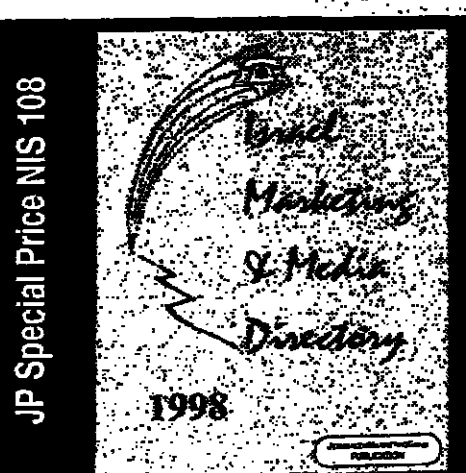
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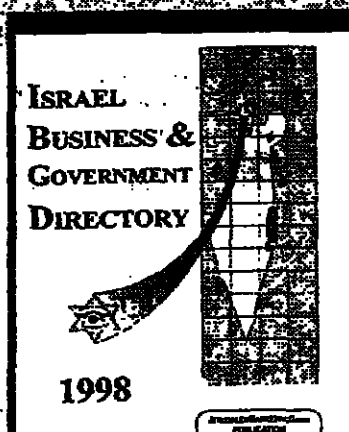
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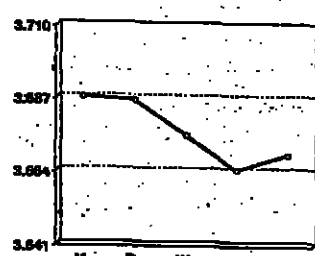
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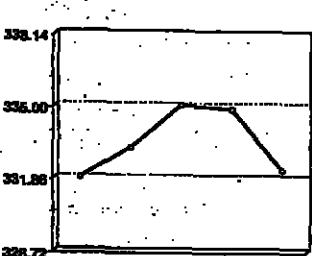
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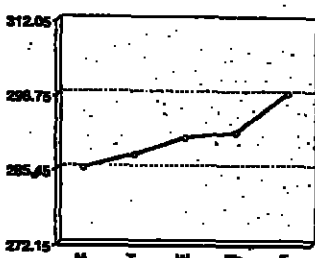


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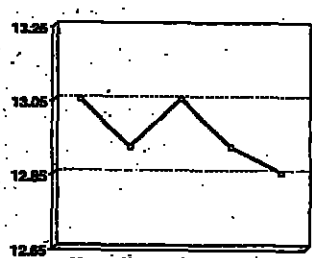
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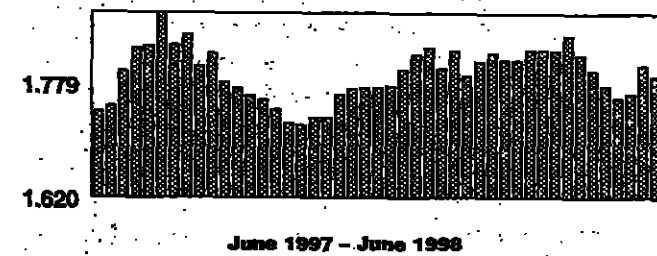


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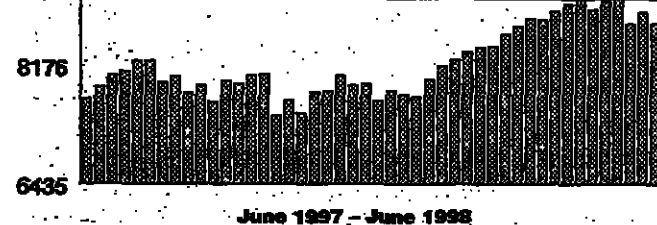
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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Electra buys 75% of Whirlpool's China plant

Electra Consumer Products announced yesterday that it will acquire 75 percent of a Whirlpool Corporation air conditioning plant in China for \$13 million.

The factory produces some 600,000 air conditioning units a year. After the completion of the deal, Whirlpool will continue to hold 20% of the joint venture, with a local Chinese company holding the remaining 5%. Electra already holds subsidiaries in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, the UK, and Hong Kong.

Dan Gerstenfeld

Aviva launches sales in PA

The Aviva Dead Sea cosmetics firm has signed an agreement with a Palestinian businessman for the marketing of its products in the Palestinian Authority areas. The company is also establishing a franchise in a tourist center in Jericho in a venture with another Palestinian businessman at an investment of \$300,000.

The company decided to enter the PA areas after it found there is little competition there in cosmetic products, and at the same time Palestinians are familiar with the benefits of the Dead Sea. In addition, there are tourists who arrive to the PA areas from Jordan who do not enter Israel.

The cosmetics company is owned by Moshav Alnag and three kibbutzim in the Dead Sea area - Mitzpe Shalem, Kalia, and Ein Gedi. Annual sales total some \$70 million, 75 percent of which is exports.

Nina Gilbert

Sharansky to lead delegation to Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is likely to become the leading economy in central Asia, according to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, who is to lead a delegation of businessmen on a visit there next week.

According to a study conducted by the Israel Export Institute in advance of the visit, Uzbekistan has potential for joint ventures with foreign firms in oil and gas exploration, precious stones, industry and tourism.

The main barriers to increased trade with Uzbekistan are a lack of foreign currency in the country and a failure to implement economic reforms, according to the study.

Exports to Uzbekistan last year were \$18.3 million, while imports were only \$600,000.

Nina Gilbert

75% of agricultural workers Thai

Foreign workers from Thailand comprise 75 percent of all agricultural labor in the country, according to Labor MK Shalom Simhon, head of the Moshav Movement. He was speaking during a meeting with Thai Labor and Social Welfare Minister Trairong Suwanakiri, who was visiting here last week. There are some 18,000 Thai agricultural workers here, out of a total of 24,000 laborers in the sector.

Simhon said Israeli farmers are very pleased with the Thai workers and find them to be dedicated and loyal. He noted that agricultural output per worker has risen since Thai workers were brought here.

Nina Gilbert

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Central bank:

Foreign investment down 50%

By DAVID HARRIS

Foreign investment plunged by more than 50 percent in the first five months of the year, according to Bank of Israel head of research Leo Leiderman.

"Foreign investment in Israel, both direct and portfolio investment in January to May, is less than half its level" compared with same period last year, Leiderman said. "This is a worrying development in a growing economy that needs foreign investment."

However, he added, "this does not necessarily mean that the figures will be this way by the end of the year."

Addressing the sixth annual Israel Democracy Institute economic conference, Leiderman suggested two possible causes for the fall: the aborted threat of another Gulf war or the freeze in the peace process.

At a round-table debate comparing the Asian and Israeli economies at the Zichron Ya'acov-based conference of the country's leading economists and businesspeople, experts expressed their concerns about the Asian crisis and its likely impact on Israel.

However, Goldman Sachs International vice chairman Robert Hormats maintained that Israel is in a strong position and is unlikely to suffer the same fate as the economies of many Asian countries and Mexico.

He said that Israel's net external debt at 93% of reserves and total



Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel (third from left) opens the sixth annual Israel Democracy Institute economic conference in Zichron Ya'acov yesterday.

(Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

short-term debt below 50% of reserves are "perfectly adequate. Israel is a lot less vulnerable."

Hormats warned Israeli exporters that the recovery process

in Israel will take considerably longer than analysts had initially forecast. "I think it is very important to realize there is more bad news to come," he said. "It will be

a painful and socially disruptive time in many of these countries."

The chair of the opening debate, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said he hoped this year's

conference, formerly known as the "Caesarea Conference," will produce ideas for renewed economic growth, "not for just one year, but on a continuous basis."

Supervisor of banks Ze'ev Abeles steps down

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Bank of Israel supervisor of banks Ze'ev Abeles yesterday announced his retirement after serving in the position for six years. He will be replaced by his deputy, Yitzhak Tal.

It is widely believed that Abeles, 51, will soon receive a senior position in the financial sector. Abeles joined the central bank in 1970 and has held a number of posts.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said Abeles has made a significant contribution to the stability of the country's banking system and the privatization of banks.

Abeles was involved in the sale of government holdings in banks, including the sale last year of Bank Hapoalim to an investors



Ze'ev Abeles (Ariel Jerolimski)

group led by Ted Arison and the sale of the controlling stake in United Mizrahi Bank to Moshe Wertheim and Yuli Ofer in 1994.

Known for his active support of free competition, Abeles surprised journalists three months ago when he said he would not object to the merger of medium-sized banks in light of the revolution in the global banking system. He added that a merger of banks, such as the First International Bank of Israel and United Mizrahi Bank, would be welcomed.

Recently, Abeles was criticized by the heads of the banking sector for his decision to limit takeovers financed with bank loans.

Tal, 51, will become supervisor on August 2. He has been in the supervision of banks department since 1990 and was named deputy in 1996. He has been working for the Bank of Israel since 1978 and holds a doctorate from Johns Hopkins University.

Economist Kleiman:

Clandestine trade to Arabs far less than thought

By DAVID HARRIS

Clandestine Israeli exports to Arab countries total far below the often reported \$1 billion mark, according to Hebrew University economist Ephraim Kleiman.

Writing a paper for the upcoming edition of *Middle East Quarterly*, Kleiman suggested that "a close examination of the possible mechanisms of such a trade reveals that it amounts to nothing like the figures popularized in the media."

The Central Bureau of Statistics' foreign trade data shows exports to "undisclosed destinations" totaled \$983 million in 1982 and \$1,256b. by 1993. These figures, wrote Kleiman, are the basis for the assumption of considerable unofficial trade with Arab states.

However, he goes on to refute the claim by saying the vast majority of these exports comprise metals, machinery and electronic products - most of which are almost certainly for military purposes.

"This makes it difficult to imagine Israel selling a significant volume of the material to the Arab world," he said.

Kleiman conceded that Israeli goods could well find their way into Arab hands via third markets. Computer chips, printed circuits and chemicals are global items, whose countries of origin are very difficult to identify.

Therefore, if a chip is made here and inserted into a computer made in Japan, it is very difficult to ensure it will not find its way to an office desk somewhere in the Arab world, he said.

Kleiman, however, said that given the globalization of trade, such an indirect export to an Arab country can hardly be described as an Israeli export to that part of the world.

Kleiman made the same point about garments, which can be produced almost anywhere before a "made in..." label is attached. He said that "if any such goods produced in Israel find their way to the Arab countries, this attests to Israel's share in world markets as a whole rather than to the importance of Arab markets for Israel."

Kleiman said the low level of trade with Arab nations should not be an indicator of future trade possibilities.

Having said that, he added that

the economies of Israel and the Arab world are largely incompatible, and it could be some time after any normalization of relations that the \$1b. mark will be attained.

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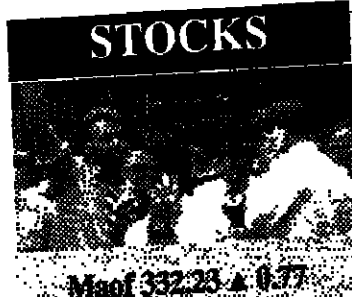
FINANCIAL MARKETS

TASE declines on Japan exports concern

Israeli stocks fell, led by Koor Industries and Tadiran on concern the recession in Japan will slash the profit of Israeli companies dependent on exports to the world's second-largest economy. Tadiran, which exports telecommunications equipment to Asia and has shares listed in the US, dropped 2.47 percent to 122.5 shekels. Koor, Israel's largest exporter also with a US listing, fell 2.63 percent to 444.0 shekels, helping drag the Maof Index of Israel's 25 largest companies down 0.77% to 332.23.

"Anything that has an impact on the global economy could have ramifications here, particularly for the export sector," said Dov Iskowitz, analyst at Ofek Securities and Investments. Exports "have been one of the few bright lights in the economy this year."

Israel's May trade gap narrowed 31% from a year ago as sales of



electronic components and communications equipment boosted exports, the government said this month. Exports rose 3.5% to \$1.78 billion in May from the year-earlier period.

Israel's exports to Asia, including Japan, accounted for 10% of its total between January and May, down from 13% in the year-earlier period.

To compensate for declining sales to Asia, Israeli companies have diverted exports to Western

Europe and the US. Exports to Western Europe rose to 40 percent of the total in the first five months of 1998, from 38 percent, and sales to the US accounted for 29%, up from 28%.

While Israeli companies' direct exposure to Japan is low, "anything that threatens that is seen as a concern," Iskowitz said.

Other companies with US listings also dropped. Teva Pharmaceuticals Industries, Israel's largest drugmaker, declined 1.2% to 132.1 shekels; NICE Systems, a maker of voice and fax archiving systems, lost 1.07% to 129.8 shekels.

Among the rising shares, Bank Hapoalim gained 1.37% to 11.08 shekels. Goldman Sachs & Co. bought 3.6% of Israel's largest bank on Thursday for \$130 million. (Bloomberg)

Kuwait prepares national carrier for privatization

Kuwait's government yesterday approved a draft law to transform Kuwait Airways Corp (KAC) into a shareholder company — a first step towards privatizing the national flag carrier.

Transforming KAC, a public corporation, into a commercial shareholder company fully owned by the state "will lead to developing its operations and improving services," a statement of the weekly cabinet meeting said.

The draft law, under study for several years, still requires approval by parliament which has in the past been highly critical of the airline, blaming alleged corruption and mismanagement for huge KAC losses.

KAC is earmarked for privatization as part of an active government program to shed stakes in many domestic firms. The transformation is the first step towards eventually privatizing the airline which has been in the red for several years.

A parliamentary panel earlier this month proposed a 227.19 million-dinar (\$740 million) budget for the carrier, drastically cutting the forecast deficit to 4.35

million dinars. The budget for the new fiscal year, which has been referred to the full parliament by the finance committee, puts total 1998/99 revenue at 222.84 million dinars.

Parliament last year passed a KAC budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1997 with a projected deficit of 10.55 million dinars. After amendments, total income was projected at 209.35 million dinars and expenditure was cut to 219.90 million.

KAC recorded an actual loss of 24.745 million dinars in 1996/97 compared with a forecast deficit of 29.21 million dinars. It made a loss of 35 million dinars in 1995/96 and a 27.9 million dinar shortfall the previous year.

KAC last year said it had lost 86 percent of its assets during the 1990-91 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. It spends about 20 million dinars a year on financing debts of about 230 million dinars. (Reuters)

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates)			
	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
Currency (deposit rate)			
U.S. dollar (\$200,000)	4.770	4.800	5.090
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	5.550	5.580	5.820
German mark (DM 200,000)	2.180	2.280	2.700
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.080	0.190	0.590

Yen (10 million yen)

(Rates vary higher, or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (19.6.98)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates*
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.8917	3.9545	3.57	3.75	3.6590
U.S. dollar	3.6377	3.6994	2.0607	1.98	2.0460
German mark	2.0278	2.0607	1.807	1.97	2.1386
French franc	0.6025	0.6147	0.59	0.63	0.6102
Japanese yen (100)	0.6048	0.6147	0.59	0.63	0.6102
Dutch florin	2.0830	2.1365	2.36	2.51	2.4625
Swiss franc	0.4580	0.4684	0.45	0.48	0.4621
Swedish krona	0.4797	0.4875	0.47	0.50	0.4839
Norwegian krone	0.5324	0.5410	0.52	0.55	0.5372
Danish krone	0.6672	0.6780	0.65	0.69	0.6371
Finnish mark	2.4788	2.5168	2.43	2.62	2.4680
Canadian dollar	2.2448	2.2805	2.20	2.32	2.2634
Australian dollar	0.6508	0.6715	0.59	0.63	0.6565
S. African rand	0.9831	0.9980	0.96	1.02	0.9818
Belgian franc (10)	2.8824	2.9389	2.83	2.97	2.9080
Austrian schilling (10)	2.0584	2.0917	2.02	2.13	2.0727
Italian lire (1,000)	5.1162	5.1908	5.05	5.33	5.1732
Jordanian dinar	1.0300	1.1200	1.03	1.12	1.1227
Egyptian pound	5.7081	5.9196	5.02	5.27	5.1516
ECU	4.0140	4.0788	—	—	—
Irish punt	2.3885	2.4284	2.34	2.47	2.4109
Spanish peseta (100)	—	—	—	—	—

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

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Museums: TEL AVIV MUSEUM. "The Eyes of the Nation" — Visual Art in a Country Without Boundaries. Political aspects of Israeli art of the Seventies. "The Boundaries of Language" — Anatomy of language in the visual arts. "World in a Bottle" — Chinese Snuff Bottles and Paintings. Moshe Kuperman: Work Diary Screenprints 1968-1998. City Corner — From Orientalism through Bauhaus to Contemporary Architecture. Collections: HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Chen Zhen — Joe Chang — Fifty Strokes to Each. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center. Tel. (03) 691-9155.

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Cubs' Sosa on home run tear

CHICAGO (AP) — Sammy Sosa hit two home runs for the second straight day and set a major league record with 16 homers in June, leading Kerry Wood and Chicago past Philadelphia 9-4 on Saturday.

Sosa had a two-run homer in the third and a towering three-run blast in the sixth that landed on the roof deck of a building across Waveland Avenue behind the left-field bleachers. Sosa has 20 home runs in his last 21 games, and 29 for the season. He hit three home runs Monday, has 28 career multi-homer games.

Babe Ruth (1930), Bob Johnson (1934), Roger Maris (1961) and Pedro Guerrero (1985) also had hit 15 homers in June. The major league record in any month is 18, set by Detroit's Rudy York in August 1937.

Wood (7-3) hit his first big league home run and struck out 11 in 7 1/2 innings. Matt Beech (3-4) took the loss.

Giants 5, Padres 2

Visiting San Diego came up one short in its bid to surpass the longest winning streak in the club's 30-year history. Shawn Estes and Robb Nen combined on a six-hitter and Rich Aurilia doubled and singled to drive in three runs as San Francisco stopped the Padres' 11-game winning streak.

San Diego's run equaled the club record of 11 straight from April 14-27, 1982, and matched San Francisco's 11-game winning streak from May 29-June 9 for longest in the majors this season. The last major league club to win 12 straight was Boston in August of 1995.

Martins 8, Mets 3

Livan Hernandez pitched a complete game and Todd Zeile hit a two-run homer as visiting Florida chalked up its first three-game winning streak of the season.

Mets starter Hideo Nomo (2-8), winless since April 28 with Los Angeles, lasted five-plus innings, allowing four runs on seven hits and six walks.

Astros 9, Reds 8

Carl Everett's two-out, bases-loaded double capped a four-run eighth, and Jeff Bagwell added a three-run homer as host Houston handed Cincinnati its seventh straight loss.

Braves 5, Expos 1

John Smoltz allowed four hits over seven innings in his return from the disabled list and Javy Lopez hit a three-run homer as visiting Atlanta snapped the Expos' three-game winning streak.

Smoltz (5-1), who has been on the disabled list twice after undergoing elbow surgery in December, struck out eight and set down 11 straight after allowing a one-out double to Jose Vidro in the first inning.

Cardinals 4, Diamondbacks 2

Manny Aybar pitched six strong innings in his first start in nearly a month and Ray Lankford hit a two-run homer as St. Louis won at home to reach .500 for the first time since June 4.

Mark McGwire had a quiet night, leaving the bases loaded in the sixth when he grounded out for the final out against Clint Sodowsky. He was hit by a pitch for the second time this season by Arizona starter Amaury Telemaco in the second, walked and struck out. He fouled out in the eighth inning.



BUTTERFINGERS — Toronto's Jose Canseco watches as Baltimore fans reach for home run shot by Lenny Webster in second-inning action. The Orioles won 11-3.

Rockies 7, Dodgers 6

Ellis Burks homered and drove in four runs and as host Colorado snapped a four-game losing streak. Burks' three-run homer gave Colorado a 3-1 lead in the fourth, and he added an RBI single in a four-run fifth.

Eric Karros, continuing to punish Colorado pitching, had a three-run double in the seventh. Mike Munoz (1-0) pitched two innings for the victory. Jerry Dipoto allowed a one-out RBI double to Gary Sheffield in the ninth, and Dave Veres got two outs for his first save. Dennis Reyes (0-3) took the loss.

Pirates 4, Brewers 2

Pittsburgh's Jon Lieber limited host Milwaukee to four hits in eight innings and hit a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning. Lieber (5-8) broke a 2-2 tie when

he hit Cal Eldred's fastball into the gap in right-center, where it bounced into the stands, scoring Doug Strange from third. Strange had reached on a two-base error by center fielder Marquis Grissom, a ball that also bounced over the wall.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Angels 8, Rangers 3

Steve Sparks overcame Juan Gonzalez's two-run homer in the first inning as Anaheim won at home.

Sparks (2-0) rebounded from a three-run shutout to blank the Rangers on three hits over the next 5 1/2 innings as the Angels won for the 17th time in 20 games to increase their AL West lead over Texas to 14 games.

Gonzalez hit his 23rd homer to increase his major league RBI

total to 88.

Athletics 6, Mariners 2

Jimmy Haynes pitched shutout ball for 7 1/2 innings before being knocked out of the game by a line drive and A.J. Hinch and Jason Giambi hit home runs as Oakland won on the road.

Haynes (5-3) allowed four singles, walked two and struck out six. He left the game after being hit in the right forearm by Joey Cora's line drive. The ball ricocheted to first baseman Jack Voight who made the putout. Ken Cloude (3-6) took the loss.

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 3

Lenny Webster hit the first of three homers off Woody Williams and Baltimore's Scott Erickson pitched his fifth complete game as the Orioles notched a home win.

Webster's three-run drive in the

second inning put Baltimore ahead to stay.

Devil Rays 8, Red Sox 5

Paul Sorrento hit a two-run homer and Dave Martinez doubled with the bases loaded to drive in two runs as host Tampa Bay stopped Boston's four-game winning streak.

Julio Santana (2-0) allowed seven hits over 5 1/2 innings to get his first victory as a starter for the Devil Rays, who scored six runs off Boston starter Bret Saberhagen (8-5). Roberto Hernandez pitched the ninth for his 15th save. Scott Hatteberg homered for the Red Sox.

Tigers 4, Royals 3

Bobby Higginson and Luis Gonzalez hit first-inning homers. Brian Moehler improved to 7-0 at Tiger Stadium.

The victory was Detroit's third in its last 11 home games, and ended Kansas City's three-game winning streak. Moehler (7-5) allowed one run on eight hits over 6 1/2 innings.

White Sox 8, Twins 7 (11)

Pinch-hitter Wil Cordero and Greg Norton hit RBI singles with two outs to cap a bottom-of-the-11th-inning rally as Chicago outlasted Minnesota.

The Twins scored four runs in the ninth to tie it at 5, and took a 6-5 lead in the 10th, but Mike Cameron's two-out single in the bottom half tied it.

Minnesota again took the lead in the 11th on Orlando Merced's RBI grounder. But the White Sox came back to end a four-game losing streak with four straight two-out singles off Rick Aguilera (3-4). Bill Simas (2-2) won despite allowing two runs in 2 1/2 innings.

Reported in yesterday's edition:

Yankees 5, Indians 3

David Wells struck out nine for visiting New York. The Yankees have taken three of four from Cleveland in the past week after getting knocked out of the AL division series by the Indians last fall. Mariano Rivera allowed an RBI single in the ninth before picking up his 16th save.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

New York	000 220 001-5 7 2
Cleveland	001 000 011-3 11 2
D.Wells, M.Rivera (8) and Posada; Burba, Plunk (7), Shuey (8) and S.Alomar. W-D.Wells, 8-2. L-Burba, 8-5. Sv-M.Rivera (16). HR-New York, Brosius (7).	
Oakland	030 219 000-2 5 10 0
Seattle	000 000 020-2 8 0 0
Haynes, T.Matheson (8), Taylor (9) and Hinch; Cloude, Ayala (6), McCarthy (9) and D.Wilson. W-Haynes, 5-3. L-Cloude, 3-6. HRs-Oakland, Gentry (8), Hinch (5).	

England must beware Romanian 'cobra'

English fans make sweet talk in Toulouse for today's match



TOULOUSE
(Reuters)
England must beware the Romanian "cobra" in their World Cup Group G clash at the Stade

Municipale today. Adrian Ilie fired the Romanians to a 1-0 victory over Colombia last Monday with an outstanding goal and could be one of the stars of the tournament.

Known as the cobra because of such deadly attacking powers, Ilie feels Romania have an excellent blend of experience and youth - and enough know-how to see off the English.

He said: "Even if the English players are physically stronger than us, we have technical resources and tactical solutions to beat them."

Victory on Monday would guarantee either side a place in the second round.

Romania should field the same side that started in the 1-0 win over Colombia. Six players picked up injuries but coach Anghel Iordanescu indicated on Saturday they had all recovered.

England, buoyed by their comfortable if unspectacular 2-0 victory over a weak Tunisian team last Monday, are expected to be unchanged except for defender Gary Neville replacing Gareth Southgate, who has an ankle injury.

Coach Glenn Hoddle is full of admiration and respect for Romania. "They are among the best teams in Europe," he said.

"Gheorghe Hagi is capable of turning any match and they have quality throughout."

"This is an important game for us and, it must be remembered, they are the seeded team. They qualified so well. I think we are the underdogs and that is good."

England have drawn their last four meetings with Romania, but beat them 1-0 in their last confrontation in the World Cup finals in 1970.

Gheorghe Popescu, the former Tottenham player who is one of three Galatasaray-based men in the squad, said the key to a Romanian success would be discipline in defense.



BADDIES GO HOME - English soccer fans cover their faces as they arrive at Glasgow Airport. The group flew from Spain where they had been turned back at the French-Spanish border.

Striker Viorel Moldovan, who plays his club soccer in England for Coventry, said: "We play another kind of soccer in Romania with more passing and a less physical approach. I've had to adapt."

England - 1-David Seaman; 12-Gary Neville, 5-Tony Adams, 2-Sol Campbell; 14-Darren

Anderton, 8-David Barry, 4-Paul Ince, 16-Paul Scholes, 3-Graeme Le Saux; 10-Teddy Sheringham, 9-Alan Shearer.

Romania - 12-Bogdan Stelea; 2-Dan Petrescu, 13-Liviu Cebotariu, 6-Gheorghe Popescu, 18-Julian Filipescu; 8-Dorinel Munteanu, 10-Gheorghe Hagi, 5-Constantin Galca, 16-Gabriel

Popescu; 9-Viorel Moldovan, 11-Adrian Ilie.

Just Like Little Bo Peep English World Cup soccer fans launched a charm offensive in Toulouse early yesterday, singing and dancing to win the hearts and minds of cautious residents.

Ostracized and feared after last week's drunken rioting in

Marseille, England's "Barney Army" were anxious to show this southern French city that they were not all vicious thugs.

"I'm not a hooligan," said Paul, a postal worker from the west of England, as he tried to chat with a local girl in Toulouse's elegant main square.

A couple of hundred fans poured

into the pink-tinged Place du Capitole in the early hours of the morning, dancing a spirited Conga in front of the mayor's office under the bemused gaze of a handful of heavily armed police.

Others sang and chanted before heading off to bed.

"We have made no arrests, there were no incidents. It is all very,

very quiet," said Myriam Lacoste, spokeswoman for the local government office which is coordinating World Cup security operations in Toulouse.

The fans started arriving in the city in force on Saturday.

Fearful of a repeat of the Marseille battles, Toulouse authorities have ordered all bars and restaurants closed at midnight and abandoned plans to stage an open air music festival on Sunday.

In the absence of the music festival, England fans sought to fill the gap with rousing renditions of their favorite tunes, including: *In-ger-land, In-ger-land, In-ger-land, or We're proud to be English and finally We're going to win the Cup.*

"They all seem very friendly, although I think the Cameroonians were better dancers," said Veronique, a nurse who was taking a late-night stroll through the city.

English fans seemed convinced there would be no trouble in Toulouse, saying they had been provoked by Tunisian supporters in Marseille.

But despite the relative calm so far, no one was ready to lower their guard. "Toulouse fears the worst," the local *La Depeche* daily said in a front page headline.

"Stories about hooligans are not like those horrid tales one tells children to make them become street-wise. They are real and the violence could flare up at any moment," it warned.

Some of the English fans were also being cautious.

Keith from London sat glumly in an Indian restaurant washing down his curry with a plain glass of water.

"I can't afford to get drunk here," he said. "Normally before the games I drink four or five pints, but not here," he said, explaining that he needed to keep his wits about him in case of trouble.

"If I were to get arrested I could lose my job, my wife, my house, everything."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair last week urged British employers to take tough action against anyone convicted of hooliganism during the World Cup

Tackle now, sex later

LONDON - First there was the survey finding that 95 percent of English males aged 20 to 34 would prefer watching Alan Shearer score a goal in the World Cup to making love to a supermodel.

Now comes the admission from England midfielder Paul Ince that he finds tackling an opponent "better than sex."

"I love tackling, I really love it," Ince told reporters at the English training camp in La Baule. "It's better than sex. My wife is not going to be too pleased, but I love the sound of it, the crunch, the noise, the act of tackling. I was born to tackle."

Ince couldn't remember his first time, but he calls a tackle made against Shearer during the just com-

pleted Premier League season "the best I had this season. ... It was great in two ways. First, I love hearing the noise of crunching into someone, the fans roar and the other guy going 'Aahh.'"

On a related subject, Germany Coach Bert Vogts had to chide his players for making unscheduled visits to their wives and girlfriends during the tournament.

Vogts called the team together to reiterate there is a difference between "free time" - time between training, meals and physical therapy - and "leisure time" - visits to wives and girlfriends, staying in hotels several miles away from the team hotel in Nice.

(Los Angeles Times)

Swans turn corner after 3 losses

AFL: Champs Adelaide deal Magpies sixth loss in seven games

MELBOURNE (AP) - The Sydney Swans won their first match in four starts yesterday, beating Richmond by 11 points to move into the top four in the Australian Football League.

After three Australian Rules losses in a row, another would have sent the early season AFL premiership favorites tumbling from the top eight, but Sydney pulled through 13.13 (102) to 16.6 (91).

Swans coach Rodney Eade was pleased with his fourth-place team's effort and renewed confidence.

"We had a lot of knockers, the media, outside supporters, our Melbourne-based supporters turned nasty," Eade said.

"When you've lost three in a row you start to doubt yourselves, maybe turn on each other. But the players stuck together fantastically, I think the whole club has."

In other matches yesterday, St.

Kilda, level with the Western Bulldogs for first place, beat Melbourne 19.13 (127) to 5.12 (42) and Fremantle defeated Carlton 10.16 (76) to 10.8 (68).

On Saturday, reigning champions Adelaide moved from 10th place to fifth with a 11.13 (79) to 10.10 (70) win over Collingwood, the Magpies' sixth loss in seven games.

Brisbane and Hawthorn, both outsiders, bucked the odds to register upset victories.

The Lions, which beat Geelong 15.16 (106) to 12.8 (80), led at every change to stop the Cats' streak of six wins in seven games.

Hawthorn clouded North Melbourne's finals chances with a two-point victory. The Hawks overcame the Kangaroos in the final term to clinch the match 17.12 (114) to 17.10 (112).

Port Adelaide retained its unbeaten record against the Western Bulldogs and completed

the day of upsets when it beat the joint league leaders by 34 points. Port led from the first quarter and won 11.7 (73) to 5.9 (39).

On Friday, West Coast veteran Peter Matera came off the bench in the first quarter and kicked seven goals as the Eagles beat Essendon 11.17 (83) to 11.6 (72). It was the sixth win in a row for the third-place Eagles.

Collated weekend results of round 13 matches

Fremantle 10.16 (76) def. Carlton 10.8 (68). Sydney 16.6 (102) def. Richmond 13.13 (91). St. Kilda 19.13 (127) def. Melbourne 5.12 (42). Port Adelaide 11.7 (73) def. Western Bulldogs 5.9 (39). Adelaide 11.13 (79) def. Collingwood 10.10 (70). Brisbane 15.16 (106) def. Geelong 12.8 (80). Hawthorn 17.12 (114) def. North Melbourne 17.10 (112). West Coast Eagles 11.17 (83) def. Essendon 11.6 (72).

Stewart takes four-stroke lead

Tom Lehman in second place, Tiger Woods struggling at 7 over at US Open

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Payne Stewart knows what it's like to lead the US Open from start to finish. He's the last guy to do it.

Tom Lehman knows what it's like to get part of the job done. It seems like that happens every year.

On Saturday at The Olympic Club, they both displayed their major championship mettle while nearly everyone else in contention was pulling back with the relentlessness of the tide rushing out.

Stewart, who led the 1991 US Open after every round, played safely when he needed to and scrambled when he had to. He shot a 70 to be the only player under par after 54 holes on the firm, fast and frightening Lake Course.

His 3-under-par 207 was four strokes ahead of Lehman, who pushed into contention with a 68 - tying Jim Furyk for the best round of the day - and Bob Tway.

The four-stroke lead was the largest after 54 holes in the US Open since Tony Jacklin did it on his way to winning in 1970.

"It's not over by any means," Stewart said. "I have to play a nice round of golf."

Lehman is very much in the tournament. And for the fourth consecutive year, he was playing in the last group yesterday at the Open, hoping this time he can get the job done after finishing third, second and third.

"I don't think it owes me one," Lehman said. "I think I owe myself one, though."

This time - at least - Lehman avoids the pressure of being the leader going into the last round.



GREENWARD BOUND - Payne Stewart blasts from a trap to the third green at the US Golf Open. Stewart has a 3-round total of three-under par 207.

Nick Price and Lee Janzen were five strokes back going to yesterday at 212 while Steve Stricker, who gained ground with a 69, was at 213 along with Jeff Maggert.

Janzen had a chance to be a lot closer to Stewart but made a double bogey on No. 17 for the second consecutive day as he shot a 73.

Stewart started his round with a 25-foot eagle putt and had a short birdie on No. 8 that balanced a bogey on the third hole and another bogey when he missed a 7-foot par putt on No. 9.

But four times - on Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 14 - he made a good two-putt from more than 30 feet while negotiating the Lake Course's steep sloping greens.

And he showed soft hands around the greens with consecutive good chips on Nos. 12 and 13 to save par and another one on the 17th hole to escape a bogey.

It was a solid display of exactly the kind of gritty, grind-it-out golf needed to win a US Open.

Lehman walked away from a roller-coaster round with a chance to win. He opened the round with three consecutive pars, followed that with three consecutive bogeys then played two under the rest of the way, finishing with a 6-foot birdie putt on the final hole.

Matt Kuchar, the 19-year-old amateur, hung tough for quite a while but slipped from the scene with four consecutive bogeys beginning at No. 14. He finished with a 76 to be at 215.

Tiger Woods shot a 71 and was

at 7-over par 217. Casey Martin had a 74 and was at 219, while Masters champion Mark O'Meara shot a 78 and was at 224.

Defending champion Ernie Els shot a 75 and was at 220.

Because of fairways as narrow as a hotel hallway, rough so deep that players are happy merely to advance the ball and a lot of dog-leg holes where position is more important than distance, the driver was virtually useless here this week.

After shying away for two days, Woods and John Daly put the big stick to use on Saturday.

Woods showed what he could do on No. 1, hitting a drive 373 yards and getting to the par-5 green in two with a wedge from 160 yards.

Daly drove the 288-yard uphill seventh hole while the group in front of him was still putting. Els, part of that group, turned around and applauded Daly. Still, Daly shot a 75 and was at 219.

The Olympic Club is known as The Graveyard of Champions because Ben Hogan, Arnold Palmer and Tom Watson - who have a combined 24 major titles - never won another after finishing second at an Open here.

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Shelef joins Maccabi Tel Aviv

By BRIAN FREEMAN

Gur Shelef has signed a three-year contract with Maccabi Tel Aviv basketball club in the club's first acquisition since naming Yoram Harush new head coach just over a week ago.

The addition of the Hapoel Galil Elyon small forward gives Maccabi four of the five starters on the national team (Shelef, Doron Sheffer, Nadav Henefeld, and Oded Katash).

Shelef, 23, 2.0 meters, will reportedly receive \$200,000 for each of the next three years after earning \$120,000 last season.

In another recent acquisition in the local basketball league, Maccabi Rishon LeZion signed Motti Daniel to a two-year contract.

Daniel, 35, 1.96 meters, played for the past two seasons with Hapoel Jerusalem after spending nine seasons with Maccabi Tel Aviv.

He will once again play for Rishon head coach Pini Gershon, who coached Jerusalem when he brought Daniel there from Maccabi Tel Aviv.

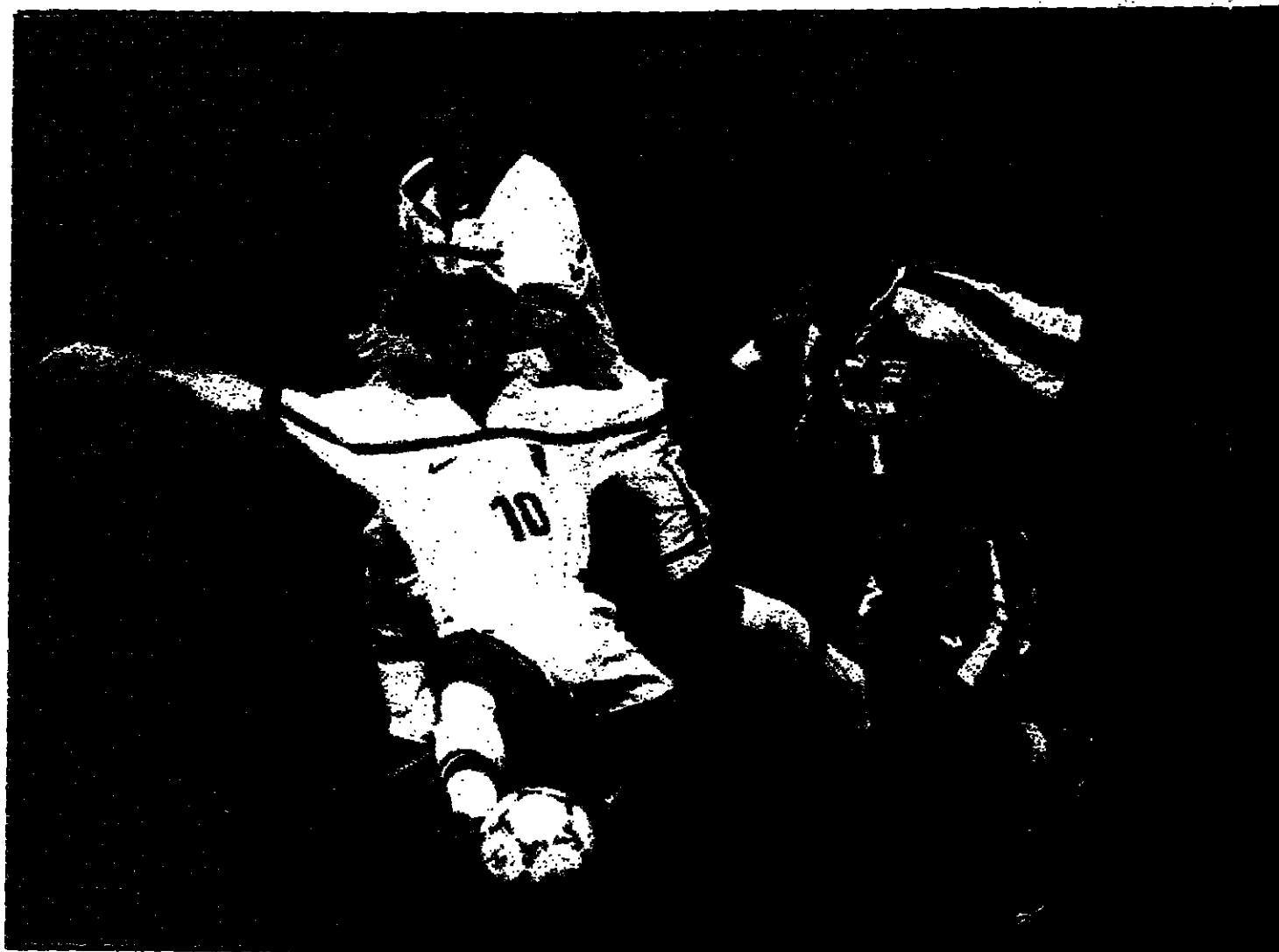
Iran halt USA rally to win 2-1

Batistuta scores hat-trick as Argentina thrash Jamaica 5-0; violence in Lens



TODAY AT THE WORLD CUP
Group G: Colombia-Tunisia, Montpellier, 18:30 (Channel One, Eurosport)
Romania-England, Toulouse, 22:00 (One)

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Group F: Germany 2, Yugoslavia 2
Group H: Argentina 5, Jamaica 0
Group F: Iran 2, USA 1



KEEPING TABS - USA's Tab Ramos (10) and Joe-Max Moore tackle Iran's Mehdi Mahavikia in first-half action yesterday. (Reuters)

LYON (Reuters) - Iran beat the United States 2-1 yesterday in a World Cup match billed as politically charged but which passed off in a good sporting spirit.

Iran's first goal came in the 40th minute through a looping header by Hamid Estili and Mehdi Mahdavia. A second followed when he broke away to score six minutes from time.

The Americans grabbed a consolation goal through substitute Ernie Stewart in a goalmouth scramble four minutes later.

Iran's victory was the first by an Asian team at the finals.

Asian sides had lost all seven of their previous matches in France. The defeat left the US out of contention for a place in the last 16 and Iran probably needing to beat Germany in their last Group F game to progress.

The match, played on FIFA's Fair Play Day, started with the players posing together, arms round each other's shoulders, for a joint team photograph.

They also exchanged gifts, the Iranians giving their opponents flowers and the Americans presenting their rivals with pennants.

Before the match, exiled Iranians demonstrated against the Tehran government.

In a carefully orchestrated protest, scores of screaming and

whistling Iranians held up bright orange banners showing a photo of Maryam Rajavi, described as their president-elect by the exiled National Council for Iranian Resistance.

Others held up long fluorescent green banners with the words "Iran Rajavi" emblazoned on them.

World Cup officials moved in to the stand behind one of the goals to ask protesters to put the banners away and minor scuffles ensued. A

spokesman for the council said around a dozen Iranians had been taken out of the stadium.

The game between Iran and the US, bitter enemies for almost two decades, was the most politically sensitive of the tournament.

The two countries have not had diplomatic ties since Islamic militant occupied the American embassy and took 52 Americans hostage in 1979.

Thousands of Iranian expatriates have poured into Lyon from all

over France and neighboring countries. The majority said they wanted to celebrate Iran's first World Cup appearance since 1978 and to set aside politics for the day.

Most of the Iranians were happy to fraternize with their US rivals uniting the Stars and Stripes with their own modern green, white and red flag, posing for photographs with each other.

Argentina 5, Jamaica 0
Gabriel Batistuta scored the first

hat-trick of the 1998 World Cup yesterday within 11 minutes late in the second half as Argentina beat 10-man Jamaica.

Argentina's win meant they reached the second round along with Croatia from Group H. It equals the best victory of the tournament, the Dutch 5-0 defeat of South Korea on Saturday.

Argentina's other two goals were scored by Ariel Ortega who broke Jamaica's resistance with the opening goal in the 32nd

minute and got a second in the 55th.

Batistuta scored after 72, 79 and 83 minutes to seal Argentina's emphatic victory.

Jamaica initially looked as if they were going to make Argentina battle all the way for the points, but they made their opponents' task a lot easier on the stroke of half-time when Darryl Powell was sent off for a second bookable challenge from behind on Ortega.

He had been booked as early as the fourth minute for his first clattering tackle and Norwegian referee Rune Pedersen had no hesitation in sending him off for the second.

With Powell off, Jamaica's already tough task became even more difficult and although they put together some well-worked moves and threatened to score once or twice, the South Americans were never in any danger of surrendering the points.

Argentina go into Friday's game against Croatia with both teams sure of a place in the last 16 and only the first and second positions in the group to be decided.

Skinhead violence

German soccer fans fought riot police outside in Lens following the Germany-Yugoslavia match, and one officer was in a coma after being hit on the head with an iron bar.

About 50 German soccer fans were detained, 20 of them skinheads. Police used sticks to battle the Germans, who reportedly included known groups of neo-Nazis who arrived by train.

Regional prefect Daniel Cadoux said the hooligans were "perfectly organized, with means of communication. They didn't come to support their team. They came to smash things up."

Group H

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Argentina	2	0	0	6	0	6
x-Croatia	1	1	0	4	1	3
Japan	0	2	0	2	2	2
Jamaica	0	0	2	1	6	0

Group F

	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Germany	1	1	0	3	2	4
Yugoslavia	1	0	1	3	3	2
United States	0	2	1	2	4	2
Iran	0	1	2	2	3	1

Germany draw with Yugoslavia after two-goal deficit

PARIS (Reuters) - Three-times World Cup winners Germany were forced to dig deep into their wealth of talent on yesterday to come back from a two-goal deficit against Yugoslavia and grab a hugely entertaining 2-2 draw.

After missing the last three soccer tournaments, Yugoslavia followed their 1-0 victory over Iran with a confident first-half display that contrasted with Germany's fumbling nervousness.

Yugoslavia took the lead in the northern town of Lens in the 13th minute, Dejan Stankovic touching a cross from Pedrag Mijatovic past goalkeeper Andy Koepke. The ball knocked defender Jens Jeremies in the chest after hitting the post but Jeremies may have already been over the line when struck.

Koepke should have saved the second, but he

fumbled a low cross and Dragan Stojkovic put the stray ball away.

The presence of Lothar Matthaus helped the Germans reassert themselves. Coming on as substitute, he set a record by playing in 22 World Cup games.

In the 74th minute, Sinisa Mihajlovic turned a free kick into his own goal and five minutes later Oliver Bierhoff powered home a header from a corner to equalize.

The draw marked a stunning return for the Yugoslavs, isolated by international sanctions after war broke out in Croatia and Bosnia. They were barred from the European Championships of 1992 and 1996 and the 1994 World Cup.

A group of Belgian and Luxembourg members of parliament met local French officials in Lens to condemn Yugoslavia's presence at this

World Cup.

The group of five met Lens mayor Andre Delelis and criticized Yugoslavia's participation in France while their President Slobodan Milosevic was being blamed by NATO for most violence in the province of Kosovo.

NATO has threatened air strikes unless the killing stops.

Before the match, a group of German fans scuffled with police in Lens.

In other news, South Korean coach Cha Bum-kun became the latest victim of a losing team yesterday when he was sacked.

Cha, whose side lost their first two matches at the World Cup finals, including Saturday's humiliating 5-0 drubbing by the Dutch, was replaced by his deputy.

Cha joins Saudi Arabia coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, fired on Saturday.

South Africa triumph after England collapse

LONDON (Reuters) - South Africa surged to a 10-wicket victory in the second Test after seizing six England wickets for 11 runs on the fourth day at Lord's yesterday.

England, following on 250 behind, collapsed from 222 for three to 233 for nine in a dramatic phase during the second session.

Pace bowler all-rounders Jacques Kallis, with four for 24, and Lance Klusener, with two for

Conine leads Royals past Tigers, 6-5

DETROIT (AP) - Jeff Conine

hit a three-run double and Hippolito Pichardo won his first game since May 5 as the Kansas City Royals beat the Detroit Tigers 6-5 yesterday.

Larry Sutton homered and had

last 11 batters he faced.

Blue Jays 7, Orioles 3

Ed Sprague hit two homers and Pat Hentgen pitched seven gritty innings to earn his first win since May 25 as Toronto notched a road win.

Sprague went 3-for-3 with a walk and drove in a season-high four runs, giving him 400 RBIs for his career. Shawn Green and Carlos Delgado also homered to help the Blue Jays gain a split of the four-game series.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Expos 4, Braves 1

Dustin Hermanson pitched five-hit ball for eight innings and host Montreal gave manager Felipe Alou his 500th career victory.

Alou sprang Gene March for second place on the victory list of Expos managers. Buck Rodgers leads with 520.

Cubs-Phillies

In a game which had not been completed by press deadline, Chicago's Sammy Sosa hit his 30th home run and 17th in June, tying Willie Mays' NL record for home runs in a single month.

Saturday's Major League roundup, Page 21

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THE WEATHER

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ISRAEL

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Map of Israel showing weather stations and forecasts for various cities including Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Haifa, and Beersheva.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY

Map of Europe showing weather stations and forecasts for various cities including London, Paris, Berlin, Rome, and Moscow.

ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Ariel	30/10	30	18	30	18	30	18
Beersheva	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Haifa	26/15	26	15	26	15	26	15
Jerusalem	28/11	28	11	28	11	28	11
Nahariya	26/13	26	13	26	13	26	13
Tel Aviv	26/13	26	13	26	13	26	13
Yotvata	35/18	35	18	35	18	35	18

INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
Amsterdam	18/13	18	13	18	13	18	13
Beijing	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Bombay	30/24	30	24	30	24	30	24
Brussels	18/13	18	13	18	13	18	13
Caracas	30/24	30	24	30	24	30	24
Chicago	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Hong Kong	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
London	18/13	18	13	18	13	18	13
Los Angeles	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Manila	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Moscow	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
New York	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Panama	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Paris	18/13	18	13	18	13	18	13
Rio de Janeiro	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Rome	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Sydney	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Tokyo	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Toronto	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Vancouver	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Washington	28/13	28	13	28	13	28	13
Zurich	18/13	18	13	18	13	18	13

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Map of North America showing weather stations and forecasts for various cities including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Toronto.

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